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FALLACIES OF THE YOUNG.

"DEBTORS AND CREDITORS."

THE common feeling respecting debtors and creditors is very erroneous, and, as is common with popular fallacies, it imposes with double force upon the young and inexperienced. Debtors are represented in all works of fiction, and in the ordinary language of a large portion of society, as a set of amiable, unfortunate, and most interesting persons: Creditors, on the other hand, as an unmingled generation of execrable wretches, with a hardness of heart that would not disgrace the executioner, and indeed only one remove from another stony class of men, the much misrepresented jailors. Now, the person who writes this article has known many debtors and creditors, and he can say that, in by far the most cases, the latter were the better class of men. He alludes, of course, not to commercial men at large, who are in their own persons, in general, as much of the one thing as the other, but to cases where the creditor is a tradesman, and the debtor a customer; that is, where the debt is not incurred in the intercourse of business, but for the personal use and benefit of the debtor. In these cases, so far from the creditor being an unfeeling and relentless tyrant, as he is generally represented, he is only the indignant victim of the imprudence or guilt of the debtor. The latter may be an amiable and interesting person, for we often find these characteristics united to consummate folly and disregard of the rights of others. But the young must beware how they set down debtors, in a class, as purely estimable and entitled to sympathy, while they at the same time look upon creditors as only ruthless persecutors, worthy of the bitterest execration. They may depend upon it that no notion could be more erroneous, no error more apt to be fatal to them in their course through life. They must be informed that to incur debt for their own gratifications, without the ability to discharge it, is just another thing for selling themselves as slaves to their creditors. After doing so, they are no longer entirely free: part of themselves becomes the property of another, and thus they lose the respect of the world, which cannot see one man indulge in enjoyments at the expense of his fellow, without thinking of him very meanly. The incurring of debt for personal gratification is odious, for many reasons. In the first place, it violates that rule of nature which appoints every man to work for himself, and only enjoy as he works. It also tends to occasion the ruin of innocent persons. Creditors are not invariably rich, as one would suppose them to be, from reading novels. They are more frequently poor, industrious persons, who, in losing money by their debtors, are apt to be made debtors themselves, and thereby ruined. In fact, the case stands generally thus:—An idle or extravagant person procures support for his bad appetites, and is enabled to show himself off as a very fine fellow, at the expense of a humble-minded honest trader, who confines himself constantly to his business, and forbids himself almost every indulgence, in order that he may be able to pay every one to whom he is indebted, and discharge all the other duties of a good citizen. Now, if young people will bring their naturally generous feelings to bear upon this point, they will see that the debtor, and not the creditor, is alone worthy of execration. And they may be assured that where creditors show a severity to their debtors, it is generally either merited by the latter, or is dictated by a justifiable consideration of the danger into which they are thrown by the non-payment of the money which is their due, and which they may be owing in their turn to some other person.

In every rule there are exceptions; but it is necessary to guard against the breaking down of *great rules* by allowing for *trifling exceptions*. Because good men sometimes incur debt, and become insolvent, through no fault of theirs, we must not infringe upon the majesty of the great maxim, that debt ought to be paid, and that its non-payment is an evil. Young people, if they wish to prosper in the world, will do well not to excuse all contraction of debt for the sake of the few who contract it innocently. They must have impressed forcibly upon their minds, that every pleasure in which they indulge themselves, without the reasonable prospect of paying for it, though it be but to the amount of one penny, is a step in error, and apt to be the beginning of their destruction. They must have it impressed upon their minds that no man of good feelings can enjoy the least comfort, if he be not conscious of working for, or being honestly come into the possession of, fully as much as he spends. To persist in living beyond our incomes is to live a life of dishonesty and to subsist on the industry of relatives, as is sometimes the case with the idle and the dissolute, is worse still, for it involves an excessive meanness of spirit, ingratitude, and hard-heartedness—thus adding depth to the crime, and will be sure to be visited some day with feelings of anguish and remorse.

A predominating error among the junior classes of society, is a disinclination to wait for a short time till they are enabled to compete in the enjoyment of luxuries with others they see around them, and who it is more than probable have toiled long and painfully before they arrived at their present apparently prosperous condition. This impatience of reaching a certain height in the ladder of fortune, without taking deliberation to mount a number of preliminary and difficult steps, cannot, indeed, be sufficiently reprehended where it occurs, as it leads to that fatal resource of incurring debts never to be paid, and that supposed harshness of creditors, which a disordered process of reasoning brings into view. I would here tenderly admonish the youthful part of the community to refrain from indulgences they cannot honestly command. Let them believe one who has had some experience, when he tells them that there is not the least chance of the world running away from them; that the present generation of grown men will not consume all earthly enjoyments, but will leave a boundless variety of every thing which can please the senses, or gratify an honourable ambition. They need, therefore, be in no hurry whatever, and take time to build their fortune on a firm and secure basis. The rising generation cannot lay these things sufficiently to heart. They cannot be sufficiently taught, that suffering under the consequences of imprudently incurred debts does not necessarily make them heroes—is not entitled to unmingled sympathy, no more than a robber at the gallows is a martyr; but that, while pity is perhaps due to them, as to all who err in this frail world, the larger share of sympathy ought to be bestowed on their unfortunate victims, the creditors, whose families may be suffering from their criminal follies, and who are apt to be by far the better and honestest men.

FORMATION OF SCOTTISH SOCIETY.

Continued.

Few of the ancient families of Scotland can trace their genealogy to so distinguished a foreign source as that of Vans, or more properly Vaux, or Vaux. On the Continent of Europe the De Vaux family have been Dukes of Andrea, Princes of Joinville, Taranto,

and Altamara, Sovereign Counts of Orange and Provence, and Kings of Vienne, and Arles, as well as Lords de Vaux in Normandy. Members of the Norman branch of the family accompanied the conqueror to England in 1066, and there their descendants became Lords de Vaux, of Pentney and Beever in Norfolk, of Gililand in Cumberland, and of Harrowden in Northamptonshire. It is mentioned by Sir David Lindsay, in his *Heraldry*, that Vaux was "one of the surnames of thame that came furth of England with Sanct Margaret," the wife of Malcolm Canmore. According to Sir James Dalrymple, one of the family came to Scotland in the reign of David I.; and in the reign of his grandson and successor Malcolm IV., mention is made of Philip de Vallibus or Vaux, who had possessions in the south, and soon after the family is found proprietors of the lands and barony of Dirleton, in East Lothian. The chief remaining branch of this ancient house has long been that of the Vanases of Barnbarroch in Wigtonshire. The change of the name from Vaux to Vans, though curious, is not singular, as many Scottish surnames have been gradually altered in a similar manner, chiefly from a peculiarity in writing them down.

The noble family of Loudon in Ayrshire originated in James the son of Lambin, who obtained from Richard de Morville the manor of Loudon, in Cunningham. Here he settled as the vassal of Moreville, and assumed the designation De Loudon, according to the practice of the age. The estate and name merged, by the marriage of a female heir, into the Crawfords of Lanarkshire. The Vetrepointes, an Anglo-Norman family, settled in Scotland in these early times; but though they extended themselves over the country, they did not arrive at any eminence, and have bequeathed no surname. The distinguished name of the Frasers first made their appearance in Scotland about the reign of David I., their earliest place of settlement being in East Lothian, where they held lands as vassals of the Earls of Dunbar. From these Frasers were descended families of the same name, who acted a conspicuous part in the troublous period consequent on the death of Alexander III. Symon Fraser, a descendant, became possessor of extensive estates in Peebles-shire, and has been famed as one of the most gallant soldiers during the struggle which the Scotch maintained against Edward I. In time, the Frasers of East Lothian and Peebles-shire sunk through female heirs, or transferred themselves to the north, where they have ever since been found. During the reign of Robert Bruce, they proceeded northward into the Mearns, Aberdeenshire, and Inverness-shire, and from this stock branched off Fraser Lord Salton, Fraser Lord Fraser, and Fraser Lord Lovat.

The Cummings, or Cumyns, were also settlers in Scotland under David I., having come from the county of Northumberland. From Earl Henry, the son of David, Richard Cumyn received a grant of the estate of Linton Roderick in Roxburghshire, which was thus their first place of settlement. The Cumyns, like the Frasers, spread northward; one became Lord of Badenoch, and another, by marriage, Earl of Monteith. The name of Cumyn figures conspicuously throughout the disastrous period of the thirteenth century. Their ambition led them to put forth their claims to the Scottish crown, but they at length fell before the fortune of Bruce, and their surname has never since emerged from obscurity. Connected with these eminent persons, was another great family of Norman origin, the Baliols of Bernard Castle, in Durham, who obtained some lands in Scotland under David I. They became conspicuous under William

the Lion, and his son Alexander II. In 1233, John Balliol of Bernard Castle married Devorgoil, the youngest daughter of Allan, the lord of Galloway, by his second wife, Margaret, the daughter of David the Earl of Huntingdon. By this marriage he obtained, on the death of Allan, vast opulence; and on the demise of Alexander III. his family was involved in lasting misery. His son, John Balliol, it will be remembered, obtained the crown through his mother, his grandmother, and great-grandfather; had his claims allowed by Edward, and, after a bloody struggle, died in France in 1316. The various families of Balliols in Scotland seem to have become extinct after these disasters. The family which now falls naturally under notice is that of Bruce. Robert de Bruis was an opulent baron in Yorkshire, at the early epoch of Doomsday Book. His son Robert appeared in the court of Henry I. with Earl David, being nearly of the same age; and soon after the accession of King David in 1124, he obtained from him a grant of the district of Annandale. The charter by which David conferred this large domain is of a curious nature. It establishes the tenure by the sword; that is, gives a right to Bruce to take possession and retain by force of arms. It may thus be supposed that the English baron, in thus making good his settlement, would bring with him knights and yeomen from Yorkshire, as indeed might be shown by tracing to this source some respectable families—the Johnstons, for one, in Dumfries-shire. The baron, who in this manner acquired the district of Annandale, died in 1141; his son Adam inheriting his English estates, and becoming the progenitor of the Bruces of Skelton, and his youngest son Robert inheriting the property in Scotland, and laying the foundation of the royal house of Bruce in this kingdom. Robert, his grandson, married Isabel, the second daughter of David, the Earl of Huntingdon; and it was in consequence of this marriage that their son Robert entered into the competition for the crown, and that their great-grandson ascended the throne. In the genealogy of these Bruces, it appears that there had been nine persons in direct descent from Robert Bruis of Doomsday Book, to Robert Bruce the restorer of the Scottish monarchy, inclusive, and that there were eight of them named Robert, and one of them called William.

This superficial sketch may here be closed by some account of the not less distinguished family of Stewart. During the troublous conflicts of Maud and Stephen, in their competition for the crown of England, Walter, the son of Allan, the son of Flaith, fled from the family-seat at Oswestry, in Shropshire, and settled in Scotland. David I. made him his steward, and gave him lands to support the dignity of his office. By the charter we learn that these lands were those of "Passaleth (Paisley), Polloc, Talahae, Kerkert, le Drop, le Mutrene, Eglesham, Louchwinnoek, and Inverwick." These estates in Renfrewshire (then a portion of Lanarkshire) were confirmed by Malcolm IV., in 1157, when he made the office of steward hereditary, and granted, in addition, various other estates in the same quarter. Besides these possessions, Walter acquired the western half of Kyle in Ayrshire, which hence was called Kyle Stewart. At this period the country was in a semi-barbarous state; but Walter the Stewart introduced new and civilised usages. He settled many of his military followers on his lands, and, founding the Abbey of Paisley, introduced a body of instructed men, who taught the ancient people domestic arts and foreign manners. By the marriage of one of these Stewarts with Margery Bruce, Robert the Stewart was born, and became King of Scots, 1370-1. We thus perceive that the Cumyns, the Balliols, the Bruces, the Stewarts, all claimants or inheritors of the Scottish crown, were the descendants of Englishmen, who at the distance of a very few generations had had no connexion whatever with Scotland. A fact still more curious may be mentioned. The illustrious family of Wallace was of the same recent English extraction. The first of the name, which appears to have been variously written Walense, or Waleys, was an Anglo-Norman, who settled under the Stewarts in Ayrshire and Renfrew. Richard Walense acquired lands in Kyle, where he settled, and named the place Ricard-tun, which till this day is the name of a village and parochial division. Another branch of the family of Walense took root in Renfrewshire under Walter the Stewart, in the early part of the thirteenth century; and from this branch was descended Sir William Wallace of Ellerslie. In this manner, the great-grandfather of this distinguished Scottish patriot must have been an Englishman by birth.—To be continued.

EUROPE EMERGING FROM THE MIDDLE AGES.

THE least interesting period in the history of mankind occurs from the fourth till the twelfth centuries, a period entitled by historians "the middle ages," from the circumstance of its being preceded by the enlightened epoch of Roman history, and succeeded by the revival of arts and learning consequent on the crusades. The overthrow of the empire of Rome was begun to be effected by the warlike inroads of barbarous tribes in the course of the fourth century, and it was two hundred years before Europe recovered tranquillity under an entirely new system of government. The Saxons were by that time masters of the southern and more fertile provinces of

Britain: the Franks, of Gaul; the Huns, of Pannonia; the Goths, of Spain; the Goths and Lombards, of Italy and the adjacent provinces. Very faint vestiges of the Roman policy, jurisprudence, arts, or literature, remained. New forms of government, new laws, new manners, new dresses, new languages, and new names of men and countries, were introduced. The magnificence of Rome was followed by the rudeness of savage races of men, whose temper long kept Christendom in a state of mental darkness. In these middle ages arose the feudal system—a plan of holding land by military service, and of introducing a perfect principle of vassalage, from the lowest serf up to the sovereign or conqueror. During this dark epoch, the great dominant power was the Church of Rome, and in whose clergy a knowledge of letters alone found a refuge.

The disorders in the feudal system, together with the corruption of taste and manners consequent upon these, which had gone on increasing during a long course of years, seemed to have attained their utmost point of excess towards the close of the eleventh century. From that era we may date the return of government and manners in a contrary direction, and can trace a succession of causes and events which contributed, some with a nearer and more conspicuous, others with a more remote and less perceptible influence, to abolish confusion and barbarism, and to introduce order, regularity, and refinement. The crusades, or expeditions in order to rescue the Holy Land out of the hands of infidels, seem to be the first event that roused Europe from the lethargy in which it had been long sunk, and that tended to introduce any considerable change in government or in manners. It is natural to the human mind to view those places which have been distinguished by being the residence of any illustrious personage, or the scene of any great transaction, with some degree of delight and veneration. To this principle must be ascribed the superstitious devotion with which Christians, from the earliest ages of the church, were accustomed to visit that country which the Almighty had selected as the inheritance of his favourite people, and in which the Son of God had accomplished the redemption of mankind. As this distant pilgrimage could not be performed without considerable expense, fatigue, and danger, it appeared the more meritorious, and came to be considered as an expiation for almost every crime. An opinion which spread with rapidity over Europe about the close of the tenth and beginning of the eleventh century, and which gained universal credit, wonderfully augmented the number of credulous pilgrims, and increased the ardour with which they undertook this useless voyage. The thousand years, mentioned by St John in the second and third verses of the twentieth chapter of Revelations, wherein it is told that the devil was to be loosed after having been bound for that period of time, were supposed to be accomplished, and the end of the world to be at hand. A general consternation seized mankind; many relinquished their possessions, and, abandoning their friends and families, hurried with precipitation to the Holy Land, where they imagined that Christ would quickly appear to judge the world.

When the minds of men were thus prepared, the zeal of a fanatical monk, who conceived the idea of leading all the forces of Christendom against the Mahomedans who held possession of the Holy Land, and of driving them out by violence, was sufficient to give a beginning to that wild enterprise. Peter the Hermit, for that was the name of this martial apostle, ran from province to province with a crucifix in his hand, exciting princes and people to this holy war, and, wherever he came, kindled the same enthusiastic ardour for it with which he himself was actuated. The council of Piacenza, where upwards of thirty thousand persons were assembled, pronounced the scheme to have been suggested by the immediate inspiration of Heaven. In the council of Clermont, still more numerous, as soon as the measure was proposed, all cried out with one voice, "It is the will of God." Persons of all ranks caught the contagion; not only the gallant nobles of that age, with their martial followers, whom we may suppose apt to be allured by the boldness of a romantic enterprise, but men in the more humble and pacific stations of life; ecclesiastics of every order, and even women and children, engaged with emulation in an undertaking which was deemed sacred and meritorious. It is related that no less than six millions of persons assumed the cross, which was the badge that distinguished such as devoted themselves to this holy warfare. All Europe, torn up from the foundation, seemed ready to precipitate itself in one united body upon Asia. Nor did the fumes of this enthusiastic zeal evaporate at once; the frenzy was as lasting as it was extravagant. During two centuries, Europe seems to have had no object but to recover, or keep possession of, the Holy Land; and through that period vast armies continued to march thither.

The first efforts of valour, animated by enthusiasm, were irresistible. Part of the Lesser Asia, all Syria and Palestine, were wrested from the infidels; the banner of the cross was displayed on Mount Zion. Constantinople, the capital of the Christian empire in the east, was afterwards seized by a body of those adventurers who had taken arms against the Mahomedans; and an Earl of Flanders and his descendants kept possession of the Imperial throne during half a century. But, though the first impression of the crusaders was so unexpected that they made their conquests with great ease, they found infinite difficulty in preserving them. Establishments so distant from Europe, surrounded by warlike nations animated with fanatical zeal scarcely inferior to that of the crusaders themselves, were perpetually in danger of being overturned. Before the expiration of the thirteenth century (1294), the Christians were driven out of all their Asiatic possessions, in acquiring of which incredible numbers of men had perished, and immense sums of money had been wasted.

But from these expeditions, extravagant as they were, beneficial consequences followed, which had neither been

foreseen nor expected. In their progress towards the Holy Land, the followers of the cross marched through countries better cultivated and more civilized than their own. Their first rendezvous was commonly at Italy, in which Venice, Genoa, Pisa, and other cities, had begun to apply themselves to commerce, and had made considerable advances towards wealth as well as refinement. They embarked there, and, landing in Dalmatia, pursued their route by land to Constantinople. Though the military spirit had been long extinct in the Eastern Empire, and a despotism of the worst species had annihilated almost every public virtue, yet Constantinople, having never felt the destructive rage of the barbarous nations, was the greatest as well as the most beautiful city in Europe, and the only one in which there remained any image of the ancient elegance in manners and arts. The naval power of the Eastern Empire was considerable. Manufactures of the most curious fabric were carried on in its dominions. Constantinople was the chief mart in Europe for the commodities of the East Indies. It was not possible for the crusaders to travel through so many countries, and to behold the various customs and institutions, without acquiring information and improvement. Their views enlarged, their prejudices wore off, new ones crowded upon their minds; and they must have been sensible on many occasions of the rusticity of their own manners, when compared with those of a more polished people. These impressions were not so slight as to be effaced upon their return to their native countries. A close intercourse subsisted between the east and west during two centuries; new armies were continually marching from Europe to Asia, while former adventurers returned home, and imported many of the customs to which they had been familiarised by a long residence abroad. Accordingly we discover, soon after the commencement of the crusades, great splendour in the courts of princes, great pomp in public ceremonies, a more refined taste in pleasures and amusements, together with a more romantic spirit of enterprise spreading gradually over Europe; and to these wild expeditions, the effect of superstitious or folly, we owe the first gleams of light which tended to dispel barbarism and ignorance.

The crusades were in a particular manner beneficial to the Italian states. The Venetians made themselves masters of part of the ancient Peloponnesus in Greece, together with some of the most fertile islands in the Archipelago. Many valuable branches of commerce, which formerly centred in Constantinople, were transferred to Venice, Genoa, or Pisa. Thus a succession of events, occasioned by the Holy War, opened various sources, from which wealth flowed in such abundance into these cities, as enabled them, in concurrence with another institution, immediately to be mentioned, to secure their own liberty and independence.

The institution here alluded to was the forming of cities into communities, corporations, or bodies politic, and granting them the privilege of municipal jurisdiction, which contributed more, perhaps, than any other cause, to introduce regular government, police, and arts, and to diffuse them over Europe. The feudal government had degenerated into a system of oppression. The usurpations of the nobles were become unbounded and intolerable; they had reduced the great body of the people into a state of actual servitude. Nor was such oppression the portion of those alone who dwelt in the country, and were employed in cultivating the estate of their master. Cities and villages found it necessary to hold of some great lord, on whom they might depend for protection, and became no less subject to his arbitrary jurisdiction. The inhabitants were deprived of those rights which, in social life, are deemed most natural and inalienable. They could not dispose of the effects which their own industry had acquired, either by a latter will, or by any deed executed during their life. Neither could they marry, or carry on law-suits, without the consent of their lord. But as soon as the cities of Italy began to turn their attention towards commerce, and to conceive some idea of the advantages which they might derive from it, they became impatient to shake off the yoke of their insolent lords, and to establish among themselves such a free and equal government as would render property secure, and industry flourishing. Encouraged by their distance from the seat of government of the German emperors, and other circumstances, the inhabitants of some of the Italian cities, towards the beginning of the eleventh century, began to assume new privileges, to unite more closely, and to form themselves into bodies politic under the government of laws established by common consent. The rights which many cities acquired by bold or fortunate usurpations, others purchased from the emperors. The increase of wealth which the crusaders brought into Italy occasioned a new kind of fermentation and activity in the minds of the people, and excited such a general passion for liberty and independence, that, before the conclusion of the last crusade, all the considerable cities in that country had either purchased, or had extorted large immunities from the emperors.

This innovation was not long known in Italy before it made its way into France. Charters of community were granted, enfranchising the inhabitants of towns, abolishing all works of servitude, and forming them into corporations or bodies politic, to be governed by a council and magistrates of their own nomination. Much about the same period the great cities in Germany began to acquire like immunities, and laid the foundation of their present liberty and independence. The practice spread quickly over Europe, and was adopted in Spain, England, Scotland, and all other feudal kingdoms. The first community of this description formed in Scotland is understood to have been that of Berwick-upon-Tweed, which received its charter from William the Lion. Towns, upon acquiring the right of community, became so many little republics, governed by known and equal laws. The inhabitants being trained to arms, and being surrounded by walls, they soon began to hold the neigh-

bouring barons in contempt, and to withstand aggressions on their property and privileges. The monarchs of Europe, in general, thus found these burghal communities of great service in opposing the overgrown power of the nobility, and, consequently, continued to load them with additional immunities. But another great good, of fully more importance, was produced. These free communities were speedily admitted, by their representatives, into the great council of the nation, whether distinguished by the name of a Parliament, a Diet, the Cortes, or the States-General. This is justly esteemed the greatest event in the history of mankind in modern times. Representatives from the English boroughs were first admitted into the great national council by the barons who took up arms against Henry III. in the year 1265; being summoned in order to add to the greater popularity of their party, and to strengthen the barrier against the encroachments of regal power. I notice this circumstance merely as a matter of history, and leave my readers to draw their own conclusions from an event which ultimately had the effect of revolutionizing the whole framework of society, and of rearing that great respectable body of the people styled "the middle classes."

The enfranchising of burghal communities led to the manumission of slaves. Hitherto the tillers of the ground, all the inferior classes of the country, were the bondmen of the barons. The monarchs of France, in order to reduce the power of the nobles, set the example, by ordering (1315-18) all serfs to be set at liberty on just and reasonable conditions. The edicts were carried into immediate execution within the royal domain. The example of their sovereigns, together with the expectation of considerable sums which they might raise by this expedient, led many of the nobles to set their dependents at liberty; and servitude was gradually abolished in almost every province of the kingdom. This beneficial practice similarly spread over the rest of Europe; and in England, as the spirit of liberty gained ground, the very name and idea of personal servitude, without any formal interposition of the legislature to prohibit it, was totally banished.*

THE STRANGER GUEST. AN ENGLISH TALE.

THERE was in my neighbourhood a farm-house which was remarkable, as well for the peculiarity of its structure, as the very beautiful country by which it was surrounded. It was very ancient, and had the appearance of being of Saxon architecture. The farm attached to it was of considerable extent, and formed part of the estate of a nobleman who had large possessions in the country, but who rarely visited them. As a young man, he was conspicuous for the generosity of his disposition, a nice sense of honour, and the mildness and affability of his manners. His classical and intellectual attainments were of a high order; and his wit, like Yorick's, was wont to "set the table in a roar." He formed an attachment to a young lady, who, in a month before the day fixed for their union, suddenly, and without assigning a reason for the alteration in her sentiments, married a nobleman of higher rank. He received the intelligence of her faithlessness without uttering a syllable, or betraying any indication of anger or sorrow; nor was he ever known to allude to the subject—but, from that hour, he was a changed man. He withdrew entirely from female society, and became a member of a fashionable club, where a great portion of his time was passed. He engaged for a season in play; but, although his losses were insignificant, he soon grew disgusted with his pursuit and his companions. He then plunged deeply into politics, and was constant in his attendance at the House; but the vacuum in his mind was too vast to be filled by such expedients. He then quitted England, and travelled rapidly through France, Italy, and Germany, but could not outstrip the phantom that pursued him. At length he took up his residence entirely on the Continent, and thus his talents were lost to his country, whose senate he had so often charmed by his eloquence, and enlightened by his wisdom.

The management of his estates, in the meantime, was confided to his steward, Mr Giles Jenkins; a man who, although he would have made a grenadier among Lilliputians, was but a Lilliputian among grenadiers, being in stature exactly five feet two inches. His sallow complexion and forbidding aspect were by no means improved by an obliquity of vision and a red nose, which latter decoration was obtained at the expense of his temperance. He had been originally bred to the law, to the tortuosities of which his mind was admirably adapted. Diminutive as was his person, there was room enough in his bosom for the operation of some of the fiercest passions that deform humanity. His indomitable arrogance, grasping avarice, and insatiable revenge, made him the terror of all who were subjected to his influence, particularly of the tenants, among whom he exercised the most tyrannical sway. He was, moreover, a consummate hypocrite, and, as far as regarded his master, a successful one.

The farm at the period of which I am writing was tenanted by Andrew Hodson, whose ancestors had cultivated the same soil for more than a century.

Andrew had passed his fiftieth year; but the temperance of his habits, and the healthful nature of his employment, had protected him, in a great degree, from the inroads of time, and gave him the appearance of being much younger. His complexion exhibited the ruddy hue of health; and, although naturally fair, was imbrowned by the sun of many summers.

Andrew's wife, who had been pretty, and was then a very comely dame, was somewhat younger than himself. Her domestic virtues and acquisitions were admirably adapted for a farmer's wife; and, although a shrewd, she was a very kind-hearted woman. They had

two children, a son and a daughter; the former about one and twenty, and the latter two years younger.

Frank Hodson, very like his father in person, was an industrious, good humoured lad; and, when dressed in a smart green riding frock, light corduroy breeches, and long leather gaiters, or leggings, as they are called, was a very likely object to draw a second look from the village maidens, or even from dames of higher degree, as, mounted on his rough-coated forester, he passed on his way to the market town.

Those who, in their estimate of a rustic belle, are unable to separate the idea of vulgarity from the character, would do gross injustice to Amy Hodson, both as regards the style of her beauty, and the gentleness of manner by which it was graced. Nature is no respecter of persons; and in the formation of our race, has little reference to the stations we are destined to fill; since she as often bestows the fair heritage of beauty on the child of a peasant as on the heiress of a peer. Nor am I aware of any thing in the habits or occupation of a farmer's daughter, which has not a tendency rather to improve than to impair the symmetry of the form. Amy rose with the lark, breathing as sweet a hymn to the portals of heaven, and returning the first glance of Aurora with an eye as bright, and a smile as rosy as her own. Nor is Nature always aristocratic in dispensing understanding, and Amy's was an excellent one, on which the few advantages she had derived in point of education had not been thrown away.

The family, parents, and children, were bound together, not only by links of the strongest affection, but by the firmer bands of religion, of which they had all a deep and influential sense. The voice of contention was never heard in their dwelling.

Andrew Hodson for many years had prospered in the world, but on the expiration of the lease which had descended to him from his father, a reluctance to quit a spot which so many recollections had endeared to him, induced him to take the farm, at a rent above its value; so that, instead of saving money every year as he was wont to do, he began to find it a losing concern. At length, however, the failure of a provincial banker deprived him of the hundreds he had laid by, and placed him in circumstances of much difficulty. Thus it happened, that in lieu of having his homestead surrounded by wheat-stacks, the growth of former years, his sheaves were transferred directly from the harvest-field to the thrashing-floor, and the produce was sent to market under all the disadvantages of a forced sale, to meet his Michaelmas rent. Again, if a horse died, or was worn out, he was unable, for want of money, to supply its place; and thus the strength on his farm became gradually so much reduced, that many acres of his land, which might have been made productive, remained uncultivated.

Andrew and his family met his reverse of fortune as became them, by the sacrifice of very many comforts, in which, under more prosperous circumstances, they were warranting indulging. The old man exchanged his favourite hackney for a cart-horse, and superintended the operations on his farm on foot. Frank gave up his forest galloway to the harrow and light plough; and poor Amy's pony was sold to a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who had taken a fancy to it for his daughter. The privation, however, which they most lamented, was the necessity of contracting, not only the scale of their hospitality, but the sphere of their charity. It is true, the wayfarer man never passed the door unrefreshed, nor the houseless wanderer unrelieved; and their hearth still shed its genial warmth upon the poor dependent, whom they had not the heart to displace from his seat in the chimney corner; but there were many who were left bitterly to regret that the liberal hand should ever be closed by the pressure of calamity.

Under the influence of all these inauspicious events, they had sources of comfort of which the world could not deprive them. The sound of the dance, and the voice of innocent hilarity, were no longer heard in their hall, but the still small voice of an approving conscience consoled them for the loss. Where a family are thus united, their home, although it were a hovel, cannot be desolate. Instead of sitting down in despair under their misfortune, each strove to cheer and support the other beneath its weight. They had all been early taught to look up to their God, and to put their trust in His mercy and wisdom under every dispensation; nor, at the morning and evening sacrifice, were their hearts less fervent in their thanksgivings for the blessings which were left to them, than when they were showered down with a profuser hand. Another source of consolation was supplied to them in the uniform respect of those around them, who regarded their calamity with that silent sympathy which is worth all the condolence that proud prosperity ever dinged into the ears of the unfortunate. Often would the neighbouring farmers, aware of the difficulties he laboured under for want of strength upon his land, club together, each contributing a horse, and thus furnish him with the use of a team for several days, in the busy seasons of seed-time and harvest.

One evening towards the close of the summer, as Andrew Hodson and his family were sitting at the window, they observed a horseman riding along the road, which lay within a few yards of the house. Frank, whose admiration of a fine horse was in no degree diminished by the circumstance of his no longer possessing one, exclaimed to his sister, "Look, Amy! is not that a fine creature? what action he has! and see how he throws his feet out; a little ewe-necked, to be sure, but that is a sign of blood."

In the meantime, the traveller had arrived nearly opposite to the house. He was rather tall, somewhat in years, but as very erect on his horse, whose appearance justified the encomiums which Frank had bestowed on it. The gentleman's dress consisted of a blue coat, not remarkable for its lustre, and of a fashion almost equal with the wearer; it was buttoned close up to his throat. His legs were encased in riding boots, and his intermediate habiliment was of buckram, which however did

not fit its present proprietor quite so tightly at it did its deceased one.

"I wish, Frank," said the farmer, "you would keep that dog tied up," alluding to a small terrier which ran out at the gate, and barked at the heels of the traveller's horse. The animal reared in consequence, and then, in plunging, one of its feet alighted on a rolling stone; it stumbled and fell, throwing its rider to the ground with considerable violence. The steed was soon on its legs again; its master rose more slowly, approached his horse, passed his hand over its knees, and then attempted to remount, but in vain, and he was compelled to lean against the saddle for support.

By this time all the family were at his side, expressing much regret for the occasion of the accident, and apprehensions for the consequences. The stranger was with difficulty conducted into the house, and placed upon a sort of couch, where he remained for some minutes, without uttering a word, although his countenance was sufficiently indicative of his feelings, in which vexation appeared to predominate over pain. On his making a movement, which those around him interpreted into an attempt to rise, he was earnestly entreated not to think of quitting the house until the following day. He replied, in no very conciliatory tone: "No, no, you have me safe enough; I shall be your guest for some time to come, to my comfort, and no doubt to yours; and if that abominable cur be not hanged or shot, I think your house stands a fair chance of becoming an hospital." Frank expressed himself deeply concerned for the accident, but alleged that the dog had been tied up, and had broken its chain; he added, however, that the animal should not commit a similar offence, and, taking a gun from over the chimney-piece, declared his intention of destroying the culprit immediately. "I pray you, young gentleman, forbear," said the stranger; "what warrant have I that the animal is not mad? He may have bitten my horse, and my horse may go mad also and bite me. No, no, sir, tie the brute up again, securely, if you please, and 'when he foams at the mouth,' you may shoot him and the horse together." Perceiving that the gentleman was in great pain, the farmer inquired if he would prefer being conducted to bed to remaining on the couch. He replied, "Yes; and the sooner you take me there the better, if you wish to have the assistance of my legs in transporting me, for they are growing comfoundedly stiff, I can tell you."

As soon as the difficulty of conveying him to bed was surmounted, Frank, borrowing a neighbour's horse, rode off to the village for the assistance of Mr Blandford, the only surgeon within some miles. He unfortunately being from home, Frank applied to me, supposing that a physician would answer the same purpose. It was a case scarcely within my province, but conceiving I might be of some use, I put a lancet in my pocket, and accompanied the messenger on his way back to the farm. I ascended to the apartment which the stranger occupied, and found him stretched upon the bed, apparently suffering very much from the effects of his accident. He regarded me, for some seconds, with a most acrimonious expression of countenance, and answered the questions which I found it necessary to put to him, at the least possible expense of words; differing very much, in this particular, from the generality of patients who have come under my notice. Every allowance, however, was to be made for his temper, the equilibrium of which, it must be confessed, such a tumble as he had met with was very likely to derange. I bled him, as a precautionary measure, and ordered some simple applications to his ankle, which had been severely sprained, and was much swollen. After assuring him that he need not entertain any apprehensions for the result of his accident, for that a few days' confinement would be the extent of the inconvenience, I promised to call on him again in a few days, and took my leave.

Agreeably to my promise, I called again at the farm, and found the stranger much improved, both in health and temper, although he was then very lame. He entered into conversation upon indifferent topics, in the course of which he dropped, as if incidentally, some questions regarding the character and circumstances of his host; in answering which, I bore testimony to the high respectability and worth of the one, and expressed my regret at the change which had occurred in the other.

The unremitting assiduity with which he was waited on by the family, combined, perhaps, with the improvement in his health, appeared to have wrought a material change in his behaviour towards them. His manner was more conciliating, particularly to Amy, who was frequently in attendance upon him. He never made the remotest allusion to his accident, until one day when the unlucky cur whose freak had occasioned it, happened to intrude into his apartment, he smiled, and remarked in reference to his own danger, and the sentence which had so nearly been executed on the dog, that their acquaintance had nearly proved fatal to both of them. He never mentioned his name, or dropped the slightest hint as to his quality, although there were some points in his conduct which did not altogether accord with the rank assigned to him by Frank. As soon as he could walk about without pain, he mingled freely with the family, and apparently took an interest in their concerns, and the business of the farm. The only suspicious circumstance connected with him was his uniformly retiring on the approach of strangers, so that, in fact, he was never seen by any but the family and their domestics.

The reader will not be surprised on learning that Amy had a lover; nay, he would rather marvel, perhaps, that she had not half a dozen, which, by the way, she might have had, for aught that I know to the contrary. Certain it is, however, she had but one favoured lover, and he was Robert Hawkhurst, the only son of an opulent freeholder in the neighbourhood, who farmed his own land. Robert was a tall, good-looking young man—Amy thought him handsome—and his general bearing and habits of life were adapted to the wealth, rather than

* The above paper is little else than an abstract of Dr Robertson's View of the State of Europe, prefatory to his Life of Charles V.

to the occupation of his father, who had bestowed on him a fair education, kept him a horse, and extended to him other indulgences, which, it is but justice to add, were well merited by his son. His father, who did not at first oppose the intimacy between Robert and Amy, had no wish, when he saw how matters were going with the Hodsons, that his son should involve himself in their misfortunes, and therefore had of late discontinued, although he did not altogether forbid, his visits. But the prudent caution of age and the generous devotion of youth are somewhat opposite counsellors; and Robert, if he had not been too affectionately attached to Amy, possessed too honourable a mind to desert her when the tide of her family's prosperity was turning. On the contrary, it was his pride and pleasure to show to those around him, that the change in her circumstances had produced no alteration in his love. He always called for her on his way to church, and left her at the farm on his return. He would frequently put a side-saddle on his horse, a high-couraged but temperate animal, and take her for a ride; and he often observed, that he loved his bonny bay the better for carrying his Amy so safely. In fact, it was remarked that his attentions increased as the fortunes of the family were verging towards the crisis of ruin.

It was within a few days of the period which the stranger had fixed for his departure, and while he was sitting with Andrew Hodson and his family, that the steward was observed approaching on horseback; when their guest, as was his custom, retired to his room, and, by accident or design, left the door communicating with the apartment he had quitted partially open. The visit of the steward was on no very agreeable errand, as may be imagined, its object being to demand payment of the rent due at the preceding quarter-day, the amount of which Andrew had used every exertion to raise, but in vain. The steward became pressing, and affected to lament the necessity imposed on him, by the orders of his Lordship, to distraint for the money, if it were not immediately forthcoming. The farmer, on the other hand, pleaded for a delay of a few weeks, alleging the hardness of the times for agriculturists, the very high rent at which he stood, and finally the severe loss he had sustained by the failure of the banker. The other, in reply, merely stated that the instructions of his master were imperative, and admitted neither of modification nor delay. "Alas!" said the distressed Andrew, "is there no method by which the sacrifice of my farming stock and furniture can be prevented?" "There is one way, Master Hodson," rejoined the steward, "at which I have hinted pretty strongly upon more than one occasion, but you either could not or would not understand me. You know I have long loved your daughter Amy, and if you will effectually favour my suit, I need scarcely tell you, that I would strain a point rather than that my father-in-law should be degraded in the eyes of the world by an execution being served upon his premises, and himself ejected from the farm." "What, Master Jenkins, you marry my daughter Amy!" said the honest farmer. "Ay, that I will!" responded the condescending steward, evidently mistaking an exclamation of surprise for an interrogatory. "Stop, stop, Master Jenkins," rejoined Andrew, "not quite so fast. Have you ever said any thing to Amy about the matter?" "Why, yes," said the other hesitatingly, "I have, but it is some time since." "Well, and what did she say?" "Nothing very favourable, I must confess," continued the steward, "or I should have had but to ask your sanction instead of the exercise of your interest, and, if necessary, your authority, on the occasion." "What! I persuade Amy to marry a man she does not like! Are you mad, Master Jenkins?" "Not quite," was the reply; "but I think you are, or you would not so hastily reject my offer. Come, come, Andrew, see your own interest, and favour my views, and I will not only at once advance the money for the arrears of rent, but use my influence with my Lord to cancel the present lease, and grant you a new one on more easy terms." "No!" said the farmer, "not if you were to offer me the freehold, instead of a new lease. I will not sell my daughter to you, or any man; no, not if he was the king." "Then take the consequences, obstinate fool!" exclaimed the steward, throwing off the mask: "before you are three days older, you shall be left without a wisp of straw that you can call your own;" and he quitted the house breathing vengeance upon the devoted farmer and his family.

It occurred that on the same evening the stranger, pleading increased lameness, kept his apartment, into which Amy carried his tea. He remarked that her air was that of deep dejection, and that she had recently been in tears. On one occasion their eyes met, and she beheld him gazing upon her with an expression of kindness and sympathy, of which she had scarcely believed his rigid countenance susceptible. "What has happened, my pretty maid, that you look so sorrowful?" said he, in a tone of almost paternal tenderness. "Alas, sir!" said the afflicted girl, "my poor father has long been struggling with hard times and a heavy rent, and, being unable to raise the sum due at the last quarter, they are going to put an execution, I think they call it, on the premises, and turn him out of the house. I do not care so much for myself, but for my poor father and mother to be cast upon the wide world, in their old age, without a shilling, and, it may be, without a friend to help them—oh, sir! it is hard, it is very hard!" and she burst into tears.

The stranger drew out his handkerchief, and, passing it over his face, complained of the closeness of the evening, and walked to the window for air; then, returning to Amy, he took her hand. "Nay, my poor girl," continued he, "be comforted; things may not come to so bad a pass as you anticipate; your landlord, from all that I know and have heard of his character, is not a man to push matters to extremities with so old and honest a tenant as your father." "Alas, sir," rejoined Amy, "the landlord, though they say he is far from being a bad-hearted man, lives abroad, and cannot, at that distance, know an honest tenant from a dishonest one. Be-

sides, he leaves every thing to his steward, and he is a very wicked man, sir."

The stranger then quitted the room, pleading a desire to breathe a little fresh air before he retired to bed. On his return, in passing through the hall, he saw Andrew Hodson upon his knees, with an open book before him, and his fine countenance lifted towards heaven in the act of prayer, while his family and domestics were kneeling around him. Unwilling to disturb them, the stranger did not advance into the room so as to be seen; but, as he contemplated the group, he could not help thinking that there must surely be something more in religion than his philosophy had ascribed to it, since it could inspire with calmness, and even thankfulness and resignation, a family who were upon the brink of ruin, and who might on the morrow, like the Saviour in whom they trusted, have not where to lay their heads. "And these," thought he, "are they whom, under circumstances in which I should have been grateful to Providence for the preservation of my life, I stung with reproaches for what they could neither foresee nor prevent."

As he was passing on towards his bed-room, at the conclusion of the prayers, the farmer came up to him, and informed him of the calamity which was impending, intimating that it would be advisable for the stranger to depart early in the morning, as his horse would be included in the seizure which was expected to be made, under the execution, about noon. "I thank you, Mr Hodson," was the reply, "for your friendly caution, but never mind the horse. You sheltered me in my misfortune, and I will not desert you in yours. I cannot help you out in the payment of your rent, for my purse, you see," continued he, producing it, "is somewhat of the lightest; but I will wait the event, and, if I cannot avert the storm, I will try to comfort you under it. By the way, farmer, a word with you: these retainers of the law will make clean work of it when they come. That steward, if report belie him not, has the eye and rapacity of a hawk. They will not leave you so much as a wooden ladle. Now, I see you have some valuable articles of plate—that vase, for instance."—"Sir!" exclaimed Andrew inquiringly, having never before heard of such a thing. "I mean the cup and cover there," explained the other. "Ay," replied Andrew, "it was won by my grandfather at a ploughing match; it will grieve me to part with it." "No doubt it would," said the stranger; "there are those tankards, too—that ladle—those massive old-fashioned spoons; they are all very portable." "Well, sir," said the farmer, not understanding the stranger's drift. "How dull you are!" rejoined the other, touching him with his elbow. "How easy would it be to get these things out of the way. You could confide them to some friend or relative—your mother earth, for instance—until the sweeping hurricane of the law has blown over. You understand me now, do you not?" "Sir," replied the farmer, "you mean well enough, I dare say, but you do not know old Andrew Hodson, or you would not have made such a proposal to him." "Tush, man! the thing is done every day." "I am sorry for it, sir, because the world must be much worse than I took it to be. The debt is just, though my creditor is a hard one, and I will pay him as far as the things will go." "But I maintain that the debt is not a just one. Is not the rent much higher than is warranted by the value of the land?" said the stranger. "No matter, I agreed to pay it." "You are too scrupulous by half." "Now, what do you suppose, sir, my neighbours would think of me, if I were to follow your advice?" "Tut, tut, who will know any thing of the matter but you and I?" "God Almighty, sir," said the farmer. "But consider, my good man," continued the stranger, "there may be enough to pay your rent without these articles, the value of which would set you up in the world again; for remember, these harpies will take every thing away from you." "No, they won't; they can't take my wife, nor my children, nor my good name; and I would not part with one of them for all the gold that was ever coined." "You will not be guided by my counsel, then, and remove the plate?" said the stranger. "No, not a teaspoon of it," was the positive reply. "Then I can only say," added the other, snatching up his candle, and hastening to bed, "that you are, without exception, the most obstinate, impracticable, honest old man I ever met with, and I must forswear your company."

The morning arrived on which the storm, which had been so long gathering, was to break over the heads of the devoted farmer and his family, who were stirring unusually early. In fact, the expectation of the catastrophe had allowed them to sleep but little, as their looks, when they assembled at the breakfast-table, plainly indicated. The stranger also had quitted his bed an hour before his wont, and betrayed great restlessness in his manner, for he walked to the window which commanded the road every five minutes, as if watching for the arrival of the expected, but unwelcome visitors.

Giles Jenkins was in advance of his myrmidons a quarter of an hour's march, and, taking the farmer apart, said to him, "Master Hodson, I did not threaten you without the power to execute. The officers will be here in a few minutes, which you will do well to use in reconsidering my proposal. Give me your daughter, and not only shall every thing about you remain as it is, but the possession of it shall be secured to you for many years." The farmer, losing his patience at the repetition of the insulting pro-

posal, shook off the tempter (who, in his earnestness, had taken him by the arm), and said, "Villain, do your worst, for not for all you are going to take away from me—no, not for all your master's money, twice told, will I sell my lamb to the wolf." "Dorard," rejoined the steward, "you have pronounced your doom, and I go to fulfil it;" and, quitting the farmer, he conferred with his followers, who by this time had joined him, and they proceeded in their duty by taking an inventory of the farming stock, before they began on the household furniture.

Robert Hawkhurst arrived shortly afterwards and assisted the stranger in his endeavours to console the afflicted family. One of the domestics at length informed them that the officers were coming into the house to finish their task, when the stranger betrayed some little agitation, and retired to that part of the room in which he was least likely to attract observation. He had scarcely time to effect this, before the steward and his retainers entered, and proceeded in their ungracious office, without the slightest respect to the feelings of the sufferers. Giles Jenkins, in particular, appeared to exult in the exercise of his authority, and to take a pleasure in witnessing the distress which his cruelty had occasioned. The silver vase, before alluded to, was standing on a kind of sideboard in the apartment. The steward, who was about to remove it, had no sooner laid his fingers on it, than the voice of the stranger was heard exclaiming, "Mr Jenkins, I'll thank you to let that cup alone, for I like it very well where it is."

The steward withdrew his hand from the vessel, as if it had been of heated iron. He turned as pale as death, and he looked about in all directions, as if he thought the person from whom the voice proceeded was as likely to drop from the clouds, or start out of the earth, as to make his appearance from any other quarter. The stranger at last arose from his seat, and with a dignity which none of the family had before observed him to assume, he advanced into the middle of the room, and confronted the steward, who, somewhat recovering from his surprise, and glancing at the other's bandaged leg, said, with an affectation of great concern, "My lord, I grieve to see your lordship so lame." "You mistake, you abominable old hypocrite and measureless liar," said the earl; "a fortnight's residence in this house has cured me of my lameness, and my blindness too, and, having recovered the use of my own eyes, I shall have no further occasion for yours." "My lord!" stammered the steward. "Your lord no longer," said the earl, interrupting him; "how dared you, sir, for the gratification of your diabolical passions, abuse the powers with which I entrusted you, and oppress this worthy man, in direct contravention of my injunction, that you should, on no account, distraint upon a tenant, unless he were a fraudulent one. Now, be pleased to relieve me of your presence, taking with you these two worthy associates; and, do you hear me, sir, let your accounts be made up with all dispatch, for I shall shortly reckon with you. Then, addressing himself to the farmer, he continued: "Mr Hodson, I am very sorry for the trouble which this unfortunate affair has occasioned you. It was necessary, however, that I should have such evidence of that man's baseness. For yourself, I can only say, that your arrear is remitted, your present lease shall be cancelled, and substituted by another, at such a rent, that it shall not be my fault if you do not thrive again. I owe you thus much for the lesson you have taught me of resignation under unmerited calamity, as well as for the instance you have given me of uncompromising integrity, under circumstances of temptation that very few would have withstood. I pray you to forgive me for the experiment I made on your honour in the matter of the plate. It is refreshing to me, in my old age, to meet with such examples in a world which, I fear, I have hitherto regarded on the darker side. Your kindness, Mrs Hodson, and yours, Amy, to a petulant old man, I shall not forget; nor your honourable adherence to your mistress and her family in their adversity, Mr Robert. Of you, Frank, I have a favour to beg; you must give me that tierrier of yours, to which I am primarily indebted for my introduction to this house, and for the advantages which have resulted to me from it."

The earl, after taking a kind leave of the circle he had thus made happy, mounted his horse and departed to his mansion, from which he had been so long absent, and to which he was returning when he met with the accident already related. The occurrences which followed so inauspicious an event, produced a most beneficial effect upon his mind: he became a better, and consequently, a happier man. His lordship took up his permanent residence on the estate, to the great joy of the tenantry, and to the discomfort of Mr Jenkins, who, it is almost needless to add, was dismissed in disgrace.

I know it will be considered a somewhat trite termination if I finish my story with a marriage; and yet, should any of my readers be curious upon the subject, I cannot deny that such an event took place, and that Amy forgot all her past sorrows in her Robert's affections."

• The above story is from "Tales of a Physician," by W. H. Harrison, London, 1829, 2 vols. and in all likelihood has furnished the plot of the popular dramatic piece, entitled "The Rent Day."

JUNE

And after her came jolly June, array'd
All in green leaves, as he a player were;
Yet in his time he wrought as well as played,
That by his plough-iron's mote right well appear.

SPRINGER.

JUNE, the sixth month of the year, is understood to derive its name from Juno, a heathen goddess, in honour of whom a festival was celebrated at the beginning of the month. According to the old English dialect,

"Summer is ycomen in,
Loud sing cuckoo;
Groweth seed,
And bloweth mead,
And springeth the weed anew."

"Thus," says Leigh Hunt, "sings the oldest English song extant, in a measure which is its own music." The temperature of the air, however, is still mild, and in our climate sometimes too chilly; but, when the season is fine, this is, perhaps, the most delightful month of the year. The hopes of spring are realised, yet the enjoyment is but commenced: we have all summer before us; the cuckoo's two notes are now at what may be called their ripest—deep and loud; so is the hum of the bee; little clouds lie in lumps of silver about the sky, and sometimes fall to complete the growth of the herbage; yet we may now lie down on the grass, or on the flowering banks, to read or write; the grasshoppers click about us in the warming verdure, and the fields and hedges are in full blossom with the clover, the still more exquisite bean, the pea, the blue and yellow nightshade, the fox-glove, the mallow, white briony, wild honeysuckle, and the flower of the hip or wild rose, which blushes through all the gradations of delicate red and white. The leaves of the hip, especially the young ones, are as beautiful as those of any garden rose. Towards evening, the bat and the owl venture forth, flitting through the glimmering quiet; and at night, the moon looks silveriest, the sky at once darkest and clearest; and when the nightingale, as well as the other birds, have done singing, you may hear the undried brooks of the spring running and panting through the leafy channels. "It ceased," says the poet, speaking of a sound of heavenly voices about a ship—

"It ceased; yet still the sails made on,
A pleasant noise, till noon;
A noise like of a hidden brook
In the leafy month of June,
That to the sleeping woods all night
Singeth a quiet tune."

"There is a greater accession of flowers in this month than in any other. In addition to those of the last, the garden sparkles with marigold, golden-rod, larkspur, sun-flowers, amaryllis (which Milton intermingles with sun-beams for his angel's hair), lupins, carnations, Chinese pinks, holyhocks, ladies' slipper, annual stocks, campanulas, or little bells, nasturtiums, periwinkles, wall-flower, snapdragon, orchis, nasturtium, apocynum, chrysanthemum, corn flower, gladiolus, and convolvulus. The rural business of this month is made up of two employments, as beautiful to look at as they are useful—sheep-shearing and hay-making. Something like a holiday is still made of the former; and in the south-west of England, the custom, we believe, is still kept up of throwing flowers into the streams—an evident relic of paganism; but, altogether, the holiday is but a gleam of the same merry period in the cheap and rural time of our ancestors.

GARDENING.—The operations in the open garden during June are chiefly cleaning and refreshing; that is, hoeing, weeding, stirring, and watering. No main crops are now sown; but peas and beans may be put in the ground every two weeks, or ten days. Pickling cucumbers and gourds may be sown in the open garden, or on hillocks of hot dung, covered by a bell or hand-glass. New planted wall-trees to be trained in the horizontal manner, may have their leading shoots stopped about the middle, or towards the end of the month.

TOWN PIPERS.

In ancient times, almost every town, especially in the south of Scotland, had a piper, whose office was often hereditary, and who was generally attached to the burgial establishment of the place. These functionaries, who are supposed to have been the last remains of the minstrels of a more early age, were frequently the depositaries of oral, and particularly of poetical tradition. About spring time, and after harvest, it was the custom of these musicians to make progress through a particular district of the country. The music and the tale repaid their lodging, and they were usually gratified with a donation of seed corn. They received a livery and small salary from the community to which they belonged; and, in some burghs, they had a small allotment of land, called the Piper's Croft. It was the custom of James Ritchie, the town-piper of Peebles, who was among the last of his order, to make his rounds annually on *Handel Monday*, or the first Monday of the year, for the purpose of receiving a gratuity from the different householders. His uniform consisted of a pair of red breeches and coat, of an antique fashion, with a looped-up cocked hat, and, till the last, he wore a plated queue. Robin Hastie, the last town piper of Jedburgh, and a contemporary of

Ritchie, died about the beginning of the present century. His family was supposed to have held the office for about three centuries. Old age had rendered Robin a wretched performer; but he knew several old songs and tunes, which have probably died along with him. This order of minstrels is alluded to in the comic song of *Maggie Lauder*, who thus addresses the piper—

"Live ye upon the Border."

Habbie Simpson, to whom the lady farther alludes, was not a piper in a border town; he belonged to Kilbarchan, in Renfrewshire, where the author of the song, Robert Sempill, the son of Sir James Sempill, the ambassador to England in 1599, had an opportunity of being acquainted with his name and character. From the notoriety which Habbie thus acquired, the people of Kilbarchan have had some reason to be proud of having possessed such a personage; and his statue, copied from an original picture, has lately been affixed to the steeple of the school-house of the town.

WAT OF HARDEN.

WE may form some idea of the style of life maintained by the border marauders from the anecdotes handed down by tradition concerning Walter Scott of Harden, or, as he was usually styled, *Auld Wat of Harden*, who flourished towards the middle of the sixteenth century. This ancient laird was a renowned freebooter, and used to ride with a numerous band of followers. The spoil which they carried off from England or from their neighbours was concealed in a deep and impervious glen, on the brink of which the old tower of Harden was situated. From thence the cattle were brought out, one by one, as they were wanted to supply the rude and plentiful table of the laird. When the last bullock was killed and devoured, it was the lady's custom to place on the table a dish, which, on being uncovered, was found to contain a pair of clean spurs—a hint to the riders that they must shift for their next meal. Upon one occasion when the village herd was driving out the cattle to pasture, the old laird heard him call loudly to drive out *Harden's cow*. "*Harden's cow!*" echoed the affronted chief; "is it come to that pass? By my faith, they call sune say Harden's kye" (cows.) Accordingly he sounded his bugle—mounted his horse—set out with his followers—and returned next day with a "bow of kye and a bannsed bull." On his return with this gallant prey, he passed a very large hay-stalk. It occurred to the provident laird that this would be extremely convenient to fodder his new stock of cattle; but as no means of transporting it occurred, he was fain to take leave of it with this apostrophe, now proverbial, "By my conscience, had ye but four feet, ye should not stand lang there."

Wat of Harden was married to Mary Scott, celebrated in song by the title of the Flower of Yarrow. By their marriage-contract, the father-in-law, Philip Scott of Dryhope, was to find Harden in horse and man's meat, at his tower of Dryhope, for a year and a day; but five barons pledged themselves that, at the expiry of that period, the son-in-law should remove, without attempting to continue in possession by force! A notary-public signed for all the parties to the deed, none of whom could write their names. The original is still in the charter-room of the present Mr Scott of Harden. By the Flower of Yarrow, the laird of Harden had six sons; five of whom survived him, and founded the families of Harden (now extinct), Highchesters now representing Harden, Reburn, Wool, and Synton. The sixth son was slain at a fray in a hunting match by the Scots of Gilmanscleugh. His brothers flew to arms; but the old laird secured them in the dungeon of his tower—hurried to Edinburgh—stated the crime—and obtained a gift of the lands of the offenders from the crown. He returned to Harden with equal speed, released his sons, and shewed them the charter. "To horse, lads!" cried the savage warrior, "and let us take possession; the lands of Gilmanscleugh are well worth a dead son." The property thus obtained continued in the family till the beginning of last century, when it was sold by John Scott of Harden, to Anne, Duchess of Buccleuch.

EMIGRATION.

THE Editor has been occasionally called upon to offer some information and advice in regard to the subject of emigration to New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land. He, however, studiously refrains from exciting any desire to emigrate to these regions. He has perused the works of almost every writer on these countries, as well as various detached papers, and consulted with persons who have been in the colony, and it is now his deliberate opinion that emigration towards that quarter of the empire is most improper under almost any circumstances. Both New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land are crowded with a population formed of the offscourings of every town in England, Scotland, and Ireland—ruffians who break away in bands from their employers, and scour the settlements as freebooters. The natives are also more ferocious and troublesome than the savages of any other part of the known world. The emigrant who settles in these distant countries generally bids adieu to comfort and peace of mind. Unless in some favoured spots, he will find an absolute necessity of being constantly armed—a pair of loaded pistols must be his pillow and table companions! Who would not much rather

descend to the meanest employment at home than endure the horrors of such a life? The distance from Great Britain, and the difficulty of carrying on trade with Europe, the great seat of consumption of produce, are also serious drawbacks. A good climate, soil, &c. can never compensate for the miseries of a settlement in such a place. Almost no country has been so shamefully overpraised as New South Wales. Books have been written to decoy settlers; and it is lamentable to state, they have been generally too successful. The work of the chief writer, it is confidently related by those who know the country from sad experience, is a tissue of exaggerated statements and fallacies. As these countries must necessarily undergo many important changes in their moral as well as in their physical condition, before they be fit for the settlement of families accustomed to enjoy a peaceful state of life, even though it be a poor one, those who feel inclined to seek a more profitable and pleasing scene for the development of their manifold energies must look across the Atlantic, and either in the United States of America, or Upper Canada, find their place of abode. In these favoured lands they need never lack the means of a humble and comfortable subsistence, provided they be but industrious; and they will, in almost every case, have the gratification of leaving their families in a state of comparative ease and competence. By emigration thither, they but remove, as it were, from one part of the United Kingdom to another; they settle amidst a people speaking the same language, of kindred affections, and endowed with the same virtuous political independence. To establish themselves in this productive and salubrious country, they do not pay a heavy penalty. They leave an island choked with a population of paupers; and perhaps from a bleak ungenial moor, which it would require millions of pounds to cultivate and render useful in the production of food, they are transferred to broad fertile prairies, which, by the slightest exertion, can be made to wave with the yellow grain of autumn. Intending emigrants will find much useful information for their purpose in the previous numbers of the Journal. The Editor would also recommend them to purchase a small publication entitled, "*Hints on Emigration to Upper Canada*," by Martin Doyle, which is sold for one shilling, and may be obtained from booksellers in London, Dublin, or Edinburgh. It is the best manual on the subject.

The following extract from this little work, though perhaps too highly coloured, will give the reader an idea of the strain in which it is written. The recommendation given as to the place best adapted for settlement agrees with that which I have already offered.

"What a country will this yet become! Its free navigation, from the remotest parts of the interior to the ocean, commanding the export of the finest wheat the world produces; timber of the best descriptions, and all the other produce which the industry of man can raise in this most fertile region.

The rise and fall of nations and of empires are under the control of infinite wisdom. If with the new settlers, religious and moral habits be introduced, it may please that Mighty Power, whose impartial judgment decides on ruin or prosperity, to use this secondary cause of emigration, as the great instrument of rewarding individual merit, and raising up to a commanding eminence this once savage and benighted country, through the light of truth and the blessings of civilization. And it must naturally occur to the well disposed settler, that though his lot may perchance for a short time be cast beyond the reach of regular religious instruction, yet that the good Christian has always a *Friend above*, to whose willing ear he may address himself; nor will the anxious parent pass over without thankfulness the blessing of comparative solitude, if it shall have removed the objects of his affection from demoralizing scenes of bad example, and placed them where the good result of religious exercise will not be defaced by evil communications, and where a patriarchal life of faith and holiness, with industrious self-exertion, cannot fall (under God's blessing) to produce prosperity and happiness."

But to proceed with my details: there are various other lakes which have not been mentioned—Lake Simcoe, and many others on the northern side of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence, which will at no very remote period, it is probable, be connected by canals with each other and with the ocean. One great water-course is now almost completed from Kingston at the eastern extremity of Ontario, 133 miles in a northerly direction, consisting of a chain of lakes, joined by canal work, which unites them with the grand, or Ottawa river, so as to avoid the navigation of the St. Lawrence from thence to Montreal; that portion of it being full of dangerous and troublesome rapids. The Ottawa meets the St. Lawrence a few miles above Montreal, from which place to the ocean there is an uninterrupted sea navigation; this canal lengthens the distance from Montreal to Ontario very considerably; but the saving in time and expense will be very great indeed: and should was unhappily occur with the States, it secures a free intercourse between Quebec, through Montreal, to the Upper Province, which might otherwise be frequently interrupted by the Americans, who possess one side of the St. Lawrence. In time of war such a passage could not be thought of—without this canal you could not feel security—with it you have the certainty, at all times, and under all circumstances, of communication with Quebec, and consequently with your native country.

From Upper Canada, the colonists can send their timber and corn either to Montreal by the lakes, &c. (the course of which I have already pointed out), or by the Erie canal to New York; having two great outlets for the productions of their lands, and for the return of purchased articles—clothes, furniture, implements, &c.—they can, according to the rates of freight, and comparative state of sales at Montreal, Quebec, or New York, select the most advantageous market.

With regard to the soil. From the authority before quoted, we have these observations:—
"Upper Canada is blessed with as productive soil as

any in the world, and it is easily brought into cultivation. The nature of the soil may be invariably discovered by the description of timber it bears. Thus, on what is called hard timbered land, where the maple, beech, black birch, ash, cherry, lime, elm, oak, black walnut, butter-nut, hickory, plane, and tulip tree, &c. are found, the soil consists of a deep black loam. Where the fir and hemlock pine are intermixed in any considerable proportion with other trees, clay predominates; but where they grow alone, which is generally on elevated situations, sand prevails. This also happens where the oak and chestnut are the only trees. These sandy soils, though naturally unfavourable to meadow and pasture, are found to produce the brightest and heaviest wheat, and can, with the assistance of gypsum, which abounds in many parts of the province, be made to bear the finest possible crops of clover and Indian corn. In moist seasons the clays furnish the greatest burthen of grass. Perhaps there does not exist in any quarter of the globe a country of the extent of Upper Canada, containing so small a quantity of waste land, either of marsh or mountain, yet there is not any deficiency of water; for, independently of the numerous rivers and streams which flow through the country on every side, good springs are universally found either on the surface or by digging for them.

The country is generally level, and covered with timber. Every description of soil can be had, so that the settler has it in his power to choose the description which he likes best; but unless he is an infallible judge of the qualities of land, I recommend his taking one who is perfectly so along with him, when about to make his selection. The surface is composed of a rich coat of vegetable mould, the deposit of decayed leaves, and wood from unnumbered ages, which, when tilled, yield several successive crops of great luxuriance, without manure. In some places, on the banks of rivers, are to be met rich and extensive tracts of alluvial soil, and beyond these, rise, in beautiful elevation, portions of land the most tempting in their situations.

This excellent soil, however, is very unfairly treated by being kept under an unceasing succession of corn crops, without manure, and any land so treated, however naturally fertile, must be at length impoverished. There is less marshy or swampy land, it has been just now said, for its extent, in Upper Canada, than in any other part of the world; there are, however, some low and swampy grounds, and these, until the progress of population and improvement shall make it worth while to drain them, are the only situations from which I warn you to keep clear, while high and dry land, prudently chosen near the lakes or rivers, can be purchased out and out—in fee, as it is termed—for such a trifle as ten shillings an acre!!

Just fancy yourselves possessed of real property, on such terms—no yearly tenancy—no terminable leases to breed interminable jealousies at the change of occupants, but pure fee simple—no rent to pay—after labouring here for a shilling, or tenpence, or eightpence, or sixpence, a-day. What a happy change would this be, and how irresistible the temptation to make the experiment! And only think of the advantage of working a rich, maiden soil, that will yield abundantly, instead of ploughing or digging a worn out one at home, without manure to mend it, and which, without abundance of it, will not yield a crop sufficient to pay its labour.

In trying the new country and the fresh soil, mind to fix yourselves near water carriage. I myself should prefer the banks of Lake Ontario, but there are excellent quarters about Lake Huron, where the climate is still milder, and the soil is said to be admirable; in either of these districts you can procure lots of land, of sand, loam, or clay—please yourselves—no compulsion to buy one lot if you like another better. The soil in the Huron territory is a rich sandy loam, suited to the culture of tobacco, of which much is grown there.

The Huron territory is a tract of 1,100,000 acres, in the shape of a triangle, its base being about sixty miles in length, resting on Lake Huron, and having a direct navigable communication, through Lakes Erie and Ontario, with the Atlantic.

The chief town in this district, called Goderich, is at the confluence of the river Maitland with Lake Huron, which promises, from its local advantages, to become one of the most important and flourishing settlements in the province.

Several enterprising colonists, attracted by these advantages, have left their farms in the neighbourhood of York, to settle at Goderich, with the intention of erecting a brewery, distillery, brick-kilns, and a grist-mill; a tavern and saw-mill have already been erected. The harbour, the only one on the Canadian side of the lake, is capable of containing vessels of the burden of 200 tons; and it has been established as a port of entry, which will insure to the inhabitants a great share of the trade with the upper countries, and their opposite neighbours in the new settlements in the United States.

The scenery on the river Maitland has been described as more like English than any other in America. There is abundance of brick-earth and potters' clay in every direction round the town.

Roads are in progress, an important preliminary to civilisation, which will connect the Huron Tract with Port Talbot and the various settlements and towns of Lake Erie and the Niagara frontier. Cattle and provisions can be obtained in abundance by this route, or by the still more easy water communication between Goderich and the old well-cultivated settlement of Sandwich, Amherstburgh, and Detroit. A road has also been completed, as before mentioned, from Goderich, by Wilmet and Guelph, to the head of Lake Ontario and York; and it is intended to improve and maintain all these communications, under the direct inspection of the officers of the government, so as to make them in every respect equal to the best roads in the oldest settlements in the province.

With respect to the important considerations of climate

and soil in the Huron Tract, there is every reason to believe the former as good as the best in Upper Canada; and upon the latter point, it is only necessary to quote the words of the surveyor who has been employed to lay out the line of road through the heart of the tract:—"The quality of the soil through the whole thirty-three miles, is such, that I have not seen its equal in the province; the soil is generally composed of a deep, rich, black loam, thinly timbered. For the purpose of the intended road, there is not one mile in the whole distance otherwise than favourable; and there are four permanent streams, branches of main rivers."

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES.

HERSCHEL.

ONE of the very greatest names in the modern history of astronomical discovery is that of the late illustrious Sir William Herschel; and he also was self-instructed in the science in which he earned his high reputation. Herschel was born at Hanover, in 1738, and was the son of a musician in humble circumstances. Brought up, as well as his three brothers, to his father's profession, for which it has been said that he qualified himself without much teaching, he was placed, at the age of fourteen, in the band of the Hanoverian Guards. A detachment of this regiment having been ordered to England in the year 1757 (or according to another account, 1759), he and his father accompanied it; but the latter returned to Germany in the course of a few months, and left his son, in conformity with his own wish, to try his fortune in London. For a long time the young man had to struggle with many difficulties; and he passed several years principally in giving lessons in music to private pupils in the different towns of the north of England. At last, in 1765, through the interest of a gentleman to whom his merits had become known, he obtained the situation of organist at Halifax; and next year, having gone to fulfil a short engagement at Bath, he gave so much satisfaction by his performances, that he was appointed to the same office in the Octagon Chapel of that city, upon which he went to reside there. The place which he now held was one of some value; and, from the opportunities which he enjoyed, besides, of adding to its emoluments by engagements at the rooms, the theatre, and private concerts, as well as by taking pupils, he had the certain prospect of deriving a good income from his profession, if he had made that his only or his chief object.

But long before this his active and aspiring mind had begun to direct its attention to other pursuits offering a wider scope for the exercise of its talents. While yet only an itinerant teacher of his art in country towns, Herschel had assiduously devoted his leisure, not only to the making himself more completely master of the language of his adopted country, but also to the acquiring of a knowledge of the Italian, the Latin, and even the elements of the Greek. At this time, probably, he looked to these attainments principally with a view to the advantage he might derive from them in the prosecution of his professional studies; and it was no doubt with this view also that he afterwards applied himself to the perusal of Dr Robert Smith's 'Treatise on Harmonics'—one of the most profound works on the science of music which then existed in the English language. But the acquaintance he formed with this work was destined ere long to change altogether the character of his pursuits. He soon found that it was necessary to make himself a mathematician, before he could make much progress in following Dr Smith's demonstrations. He now, therefore, turned with his characteristic alacrity and resolution to the new study to which his attention was thus directed; and it was not long before he became so attached to it, that almost all the other pursuits of his leisure hours were laid aside for its sake.

During his residence at Bath, although greatly occupied with professional engagements, the time he devoted to his mathematical studies was rather increased than diminished. Often, we are told, after a fatiguing day's work of fourteen or sixteen hours among his pupils, he would, on returning home at night, repair for relaxation to what many would deem these severe exercises. In this manner, in course of time, he attained a competent knowledge of geometry, and found himself in a condition to proceed to the study of the different branches of physical science which depend upon the mathematics. Among the first of these latter that attracted his attention were the kindred departments of astronomy and optics. It has been stated that Herschel's first attempts in the fabrication of magnifying-glasses were occasioned by his reading something upon that subject in a copy of Smith's optics, which accidentally fell in his way; but this story is perhaps nothing more than a version of the fact already mentioned, that his acquaintance with the mathematics began in his study of the 'Treatise on Harmonics,' by the writer in question. Another account of the matter which has been given is, that having, in the course of his philosophical studies, applied himself to the sciences of optics and astronomy, he became desirous of beholding with his own eyes those wonders of the heavens, of which he read so much, and for that purpose he borrowed from an acquaintance a two-feet Gregorian telescope. This instrument interested him so greatly, that he determined to procure one of his own, and commissioned a friend in London to purchase one for him, of a somewhat larger size. But

he found the price was beyond what he could afford. To make up for this disappointment he resolved to attempt to construct a telescope for himself; and after encountering innumerable difficulties in the progress of his task, he at last succeeded, in the year 1774, in completing a five-feet Newtonian reflector. This was the beginning of a long and brilliant course of triumphs in the same walk of art, and also in that of astronomical discovery.

Herschel now became so much more ardently attached to his philosophical pursuits, that, regardless of the sacrifice of emolument he was making, he began gradually to limit his professional engagements and the number of his pupils. Meanwhile he continued to employ his leisure in the fabrication of still more powerful instruments than the one he had first constructed; and in no longer time he produced telescopes of seven, ten, and even twenty feet focal distance. In fashioning the mirrors for these instruments his perseverance was indefatigable. For his seven-feet reflector, it is asserted that he actually finished and made trial of no fewer than two hundred mirrors before he found one that satisfied him. When he sat down to prepare a mirror, his practice was to work at it for twelve or fourteen hours, without quitting his occupation for a moment. He would not even take his hand from what he was about, to help himself to food; and the little that he ate on such occasions was put into his mouth by his sister. He gave the mirror its proper shape, more by a certain natural tact than by rule; and when his hand was once in, as the phrase is, he was afraid that the perfection of the finish might be impaired by the least intermission of his labours.

It was on the 13th of March 1781 that Herschel made the discovery to which he owes, perhaps, most of his popular reputation. He had been engaged for nearly a year and a half in making a regular survey of the heavens, when, on the evening of the day that has been mentioned, having turned his telescope (an excellent seven-feet reflector, of his own constructing) to a particular part of the sky, he observed among the other stars one which seemed to shine with a more steady radiance than those around it; and, on account of that, and some other peculiarities in its appearance, which excited his suspicions, he determined to observe it more narrowly. On reverting to it after some hours, he was a good deal surprised to find that it had perceptibly changed its place—a fact which, the next day, became still more indisputable. At first he was somewhat in doubt whether or not it was the same star which he had seen on these different occasions; but, after continuing his observations for a few days longer, all uncertainty upon that head vanished. He now communicated what he had observed to the astronomer Royal, Dr Maskelyne, who concluded that the luminary could be nothing else than a new comet. Continued observation of it, however, for a few months dissipated this error; and it became evident that it was, in reality, a hitherto undiscovered planet. This new world, so unexpectedly found to form a part of the system to which our own belongs, received from Herschel the name of *Georgium Sidus*, or Georgian Star, in honour of the King of England; but by continental astronomers it has been more generally called either *Herschel*, after its discoverer, or *Uranus*. Subsequent observations, made chiefly by Herschel himself, have ascertained many particulars regarding it, some of which are well calculated to fill us with astonishment at the powers of the sublime science which can bring its way so far into the immensity of space, and bring us back information so precise and various. In the first place, the diameter of this new globe has been found to be nearly four and a half times larger than that of our own. Its size altogether is about eighty times that of our earth. Its year is as long as eighty-three of ours. Its distance from the sun is nearly eighteen hundred millions of miles, or more than nineteen times that of the earth. Its density, as compared with that of the earth, is nearly as twenty-two to one hundred; so that its entire weight is not far from eighteen times that of our planet. Finally, the force of gravitation near its surface is such, that falling bodies descend only through fourteen feet during the first second, instead of thirty-two feet, as with us. Herschel afterwards discovered, successively, no fewer than six satellites or moons, belonging to his new planet.

The announcement of the discovery of the *Georgium Sidus* at once made Herschel's name universally known. In the course of a few months the king bestowed upon him a pension of three hundred a-year, that he might be enabled entirely to relinquish his engagements at Bath; and upon this he came to reside at Slough, near Windsor. He now devoted himself entirely to science; and the constructing of telescopes, and observations of the heavens, continued to form the occupations of the remainder of his life. Astronomy is indebted to him for many other most interesting discoveries besides the celebrated one of which we have just given an account, as well as for a variety of speculations of the most ingenious, original, and profound character. But of these we cannot here attempt any detail. He also introduced some important improvements into the construction of the reflecting telescope, besides continuing to fabricate that instrument of dimensions greatly exceeding any

that had been formerly attempted, with the powers surpassing, in nearly a corresponding degree, what had ever been obtained. The largest telescope which he ever made, was his famous one of forty feet long, which he erected at Slough, for the king. It was begun about the end of the year 1785, and on the 28th of August 1789 the enormous tube was poised on the complicated, but ingeniously contrived mechanism by which its movements were to be regulated, and ready for use. On the same day a new satellite of Saturn was detected by it, being the sixth which had been observed attendant upon that planet. A seventh was afterwards discovered by means of the same instrument. This telescope has recently been taken down, and replaced by another of only one half the length, constructed by Mr J. Herschel, the distinguished son of the subject of our present sketch. Herschel himself eventually became convinced that no telescope could surpass in magnifying power one of from twenty to twenty-five feet in length. The French astronomer, Lalande, in his continuation of Montucla's History of the Mathematics, states, that he was informed by George III. himself, that it was at his desire that Herschel was induced to make the telescope at Slough of the extraordinary length he did, his own wish being that it should not be more than thirty feet long.

So extraordinary was the ardour of this great astronomer in the study of his favourite science, that for many years, it has been asserted, he never was in bed at any hour during which the stars were visible. And he made almost all his observations, whatever was the season of the year, not under cover, but in his garden, and in the open air—and generally without an attendant. There was much that was altogether peculiar to himself, not only in the process by which he fabricated his telescopes, but also in his manner of using them. One of the attendants in the king's observatory at Richmond, who had formerly been a workman in Ramsden's establishment, was forcibly reminded, on seeing Herschel take an observation, of a remark which his old master had made. Having just completed one of his best telescopes, Ramsden, addressing himself to his workmen, said, "This, I believe, is the highest degree of perfection that we opticians by profession will ever arrive at; if any improvement of importance shall ever after this be introduced in the making of telescopes, it will be by some one who has not been taught his art by us."

Some years before his death the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon Herschel by the University of Oxford; and in 1816, his late Majesty, then Prince Regent, bestowed upon him the Hanoverian and Guelphic Order of Knighthood. He died on the 23d of August 1822, when he was within a few months of having completed his eighty-fourth year.—*Library of Entertaining Knowledge.*

THE BISCUIT.

[FROM THE MILITARY SKETCH BOOK.]

OUR advanced guard had been skirmishing with the enemy for five days, and with empty stomachs. The commissary of the division had either missed us in his march with the provisions, for which he had been dispatched to the rear, or else had not been successful in procuring a supply. But whatever might have been the cause, the consequence was trying to us; for the men, officers and all, were wholly without provisions for three days. At the time the commissary went to the rear, two pounds of biscuit, one pound of meat, and a pint of wine, were served out to each individual; and upon this quantity we were forced to exist for five days; for nothing was to be bought. If we had been loaded with gold, we could not have purchased a morsel of any sort of food.

Most of the men, from having been accustomed to disappointment of supplies of rations, managed their little stock of provisions so economically, that it lasted nearly three days, but the greater part finished it in half the time. As the men grew weaker, the work grew heavier; and as hunger increased, so did the necessity for physical exertion. The enemy were constantly annoying us, and every hour of the day brought a skirmish, either with their little squads of cavalry, their riflemen, or their voltigeurs. The latter were troops of very short stature and strong make, very much esteemed by Napoleon. They wore short breeches and half gaiters, and none of the men were more than five feet three inches high. The rifles would advance by the cover of a hedge, or hill perhaps, while the voltigeurs would suddenly dart out from a ditch, into which they had crept under cover of the weeds, and fall upon our pickets with the ferocity of bull-dogs; and when they were mastered, would (if not killed, wounded, or held fast) scamper off like kangaroos. In like manner the cavalry would try to surprise us; or, if they could steal upon us, would dash up, fire their pistols, and, if well opposed, gallop off again.

On the fifth morning after the commissary had delivered the rations above mentioned, we had a very sharp brush with the enemy. A company of infantry and a few dragoons were ordered to dislodge the French from a house in which they had a party, and which was necessary to the security of our position; for, from this house, they used to sally upon our pickets in a most annoying manner. The French, not more than fifty in number, made a considerable resistance; they received the English with a volley from the windows, and immediately retreated to a high bank behind the house. From this point they continued to fire until their flank was threatened by our dragoons, when they retreated in

double-quick disorder, leaving about fifteen killed and wounded.

Our men were then starving. The poor fellows, although they had forgotten their animal wants in the execution of their duty, plainly displayed in their faces the weakness of their bodies. Every man of the crowded encampment looked wan and melancholy; and all kept up their flagging spirits by resolution and patience. Many a manly fellow felt in silence the bitterness of his situation. There were no upbraiding, for all were sufferers alike.

In about an hour after the taking of the old house in front, I went out from our huts in a crowd to see the place of action. I met four or five of our men wounded, led and carried by their comrades. The officer commanding the party now joined me, and walked back to the house, to give farther directions regarding other wounded men not yet removed. When we had gone about fifty yards, we met a wounded soldier carried very slowly in a blanket by four men. As soon as he saw the officer who was along with me, he cried out in a feeble but forced voice, "Stop! stop!—lay me down—let me speak to the captain." The surgeon, who was along with him, had no objection, for, in my opinion, he thought the man beyond the power of his skill, and the sufferer was laid gently down upon the turf, under the shade of a projecting rock. I knew the wounded man's face in a moment, for I had often remarked him as being a steady, well-conducted soldier; his age was about forty-one or two, and he had a wife and two children in England. I saw death in the poor fellow's face. He was shot in the throat, or rather between the shoulder and the throat; the ball passed apparently downwards, probably from having been fired from the little hill on which the French posted themselves when they left the house. The blood gurgled from the wound at every exertion he made to speak. I asked the surgeon what he thought of the man, and that gentleman whispered, "It is all over with him." He said he had done every thing he could to stop the blood, but found, from the situation of the wound, that it was impossible to succeed.

The dying soldier, on being laid down, held out his hand to my friend the Captain, which was not only cordially received, but pressed with pity and tenderness by that officer. "Sir," said the unhappy man, gazing upon his Captain with a look such as I shall never forget—"Sir, you have been my best friend ever since I entered the regiment—you have been every man's friend in the company, and a good officer—God bless you! You saved me once from punishment, which you and all knew afterwards that I was unjustly sentenced to. God bless you!" Here the tears came from his eyes, and neither the Captain, nor any one around, could conceal their kindred sensation.

The poor sufferer resumed—"I have only to beg, Sir, you will take care that my dear wife and little ones shall have my back pay as soon as possible;—I am not many hours for this world." The Captain pressed his hand, but could not speak. He hid his face in his handkerchief.

"I have done my duty, Captain—have I not, Sir?" "You have, Tom, you have, and nobly done it," replied the Captain, with great emotion.

"God bless you!—I have only one thing more to say." Then addressing one of his comrades, he asked for his haversack, which was immediately handed to him. "I have only one thing to say, Captain," said he, "I have not been very well this week, Sir, and did not eat all my rations. I have one biscuit—it is all I possess. You, as well as others, Sir, are without bread; take it for the sake of a poor grateful soldier—take it—take it, Sir, and God be with you!"

The poor good-natured creature was totally exhausted as he concluded; he leaned back—his eyes grew a dull glassy colour—his face still paler, and he expired in about ten minutes after on the spot. The Captain wept like a child.

Few words were spoken. The body was borne along with us to the wood where the division was bivouacked, and the whole of the company to which the man belonged attended his interment, which took place in about two hours after. He was wrapped in his blanket, just as he was, and laid in the earth. The Captain himself read a prayer over his grave, and pronounced a short but impressive eulogy on the merits of the departed. He showed the men the biscuit, as he related to them the manner in which it had been given to him, and he declared he would never taste it, but keep the token in remembrance of the good soldier, even though he starved. The commissary, however, arrived that night, and prevented the necessity of trial to the Captain's amiable resolution. At the same time, I do believe that nothing would have made him eat the biscuit.

This is no tale of fiction: the fact occurred before the author's eyes. Let no man, then, in his ignorance, throw taunts upon the soldier, and tell him that his gay apparel and his daily bread are paid for out of the citizen's pocket. Rather let him think on this biscuit, and reflect, that the soldier earns his crust as well as he, and when the day of trial comes, will bear the worst and most appalling privations, to keep the enemy from snatching the last biscuit out of the citizen's mouth. It is for his countrymen at home that he starves—it is for them he dies.

THE ENCHANTED SLEDGE.

ONE of the most important employments at a certain period of the pastoral year in the south of Scotland, is the digging, drying, and driving home of the peat, which is almost the only fuel in these parts. The tough surface is paired off with the turf-spade, or *slauter*; the firmer moss beneath is cut, by means of a spade of a particular construction, into quadrangular pieces rather more than a foot in length; these are lifted and laid along, side by side, till they acquire a certain hardness, when they are set on end, into a multitude of little pyramids, something in the same

way as soldiers pile their muskets. After continuing in this position for some time, the peats are collected and built into *wind-rues* and *rickles*—small heaps, that is, through which the wind sifts, and gives them that degree of dryness that they are fit for burning. They are then driven home, built into large stacks for winter use, and covered with thatch.

As the moss best fitted for furnishing this kind of fuel is frequently found at the tops of nearly inaccessible mountains, the driving of the fuel home requires long and patient labour; for a very small load only can be removed at a time, and that by a road that every step must be looked to before it is ventured upon. Wheeled teams would be totally unmanageable on many of these trackless steeps. What is called a *slype* is therefore used, which resembles a cart dismounted from its wheels, only the shafts have a curve upwards, so as to bring them up to the horse's sides, while the body of the vehicle *slypes*, or slides, along the ground. In places still more impracticable, where the action of shafts would bring the horse to the ground, or knock it about too unmercifully, the *sled*, or *sledge*, is resorted to, which has no shafts, but is drawn by chains fastened with hooks, which may be lifted out whenever the act of drawing is relaxed.

In this occupation of driving home peats in a sled, Thomas Leytelle was employed when a very odd adventure befel him. Thomas was a man that conducted his horse and cart after a most primitive manner. With the simple sort of carriage which has been described, it will readily be imagined that the harness was not of a very tasteful description. The horse was not taught with a curb-bridle to arch its neck proudly, but was led by a halter of hemp, fastened round its head, without either blinders or bit. This halter was of considerable length, and it was the shepherd's practice to hold by its extremity with both hands brought round behind him, while he walked in front of his equipage, pulling stoutly, and thereby acting in some sort as a trace horse. The head of the animal was thus brought into an horizontal position in a line with its neck, and projected very much like the mouth of a piece of ordnance over its carriage.

In this way the good man saw any obstacle which the rough tract presented, and avoided or removed it. Many a time did he push over with his foot a large stone, which bounded off down the side of the mountain, to the no little risk and very great terror of the sheep that happened to be feeding there—and all because he was a merciful man to his beast. He seldom looked back. When the horse wanted a few moments' rest, it made a pause of its own accord, as, to be sure, it best knew when such a pause was necessary; and its conductor good naturedly halted, too, till it was the horse's pleasure to move forward again. Thomas did not alter his position upon these occasions, but stood in the middle of the path, keeping the halter at the stretch; and ready to proceed whenever he found the mass behind him in motion. If, as it sometimes happened, the horse was disposed to lengthen out these breathing-times rather unreasonably, it was admonished by one or two tugs at the halter, and a "Pull, Croppy, pull!"

One day that Thomas was bringing home a load, he stopped when he came near the door of his hut, and called out as usual, "Eppie, come and help me to coup!" His wife, thus summoned, came accordingly to assist in unloading; but when Thomas turned round for that purpose, there was nothing to be seen but his venerable white horse standing peacefully behind him; the load he had piled up at the peathill was gone; the vehicle he had piled it in was gone too. This to the reader may appear strange—and so it was, no doubt; but Thomas understood at once how the case stood; the fairies, he knew well, were playing a prank with him, and had cast glamour in his eyes; and, in order to confound him more, had left all other things visible, while they concealed the sled from his sight. It often happens, however, that no more than one person is bewitched at one time in this way; and Thomas made no doubt that the sled, though not discernible by him, was in its proper place, and palpable to his wife's organs. He therefore saw no use it would serve to make an ado about so simple a matter; and walking round to the place where the sled should have been, he desired his wife to lift out the one hook while he lifted out the other, that the horse might go at liberty till the sled should be emptied. An idea similar to that which had occurred to the husband struck his wife also; namely, that her eyes were under a spell; and she passed her hand across them, without moving from the spot on which she stood. Finding that this operation did not help her vision any thing, she was compelled to say, but with some hesitation, "Really, Thomas, I cannot just say that I see the sled."

"Ye cannot say that ye see't, can ye no?" said Thomas, groping in the empty space, evidently afraid that he should knock his shins against something. "An that be the case, I cannot say that I see it clearly myself."

Comparing notes, the couple now agreed that it was most advisable to let the good folks of Faery finish their frolic; and that, if they themselves adjourned to their mid-day repast (for it was about the hollow and hungry hour of noon), it was highly probable the charm would be dissipated on their return, and the load of turf restored to its place, visible as well as tangible. The careful peasant observed, however, that it would be an awkward thing if the horse should go picking of grass among the knolls, overturn the load, and perhaps break the sled in some inconvenient spot. To prevent this, he tied the halter to the door-post; and then both went into the house together.

The pair cautiously abstained from showing any signs of impatience, or even curiosity, knowing that any thing of that kind would only tempt their tormentors to prolong the delusion. Not even a peep from the window was indulged; but, in return for this exemplary submission, they fully expected to find all as it should be when the time for resuming the business of the day came. The time did come; but it did not bring the realization of their expectations. The horse, which they had left tied to the door-post, was still there, and stood patiently with its head dropped from the accustomed horizontal level, and one of its hind feet lifted a little way from the ground; but no sled nor peats appeared. Thomas did not rest satisfied with appearances; he knew how deceitful these often are, and, repeating the proverb, that "seeing's believing, but feeling's the truth," he made assurance doubly sure, by cautiously groping all about the spot which the vehicle should have occupied.

He did murmur a little on finding that the case was hopeless. "Granting that the creatures had porridge to make, and pots to boil," he said, "and did need fires in the winter season, to be sure they must have fuel, and he would not have grudged them the peats—no, nor twice as many; but to take the bit sled too! It was probable the wasterly things would just break it up for firewood, and it would take him a week to make a new one—that is, it would have taken him so long if he had had wood for the purpose, but he had used the last spar about the house to mend the handbarrow the week before." He went on with these melancholy reflections—"Winter was coming on, and the greater part of the peats were out on the hill. It was true, his wife and himself might sit in the nook, and try to keep their fingers warm by blowing on them; yet what method they were to fall upon to make the water boil for their porridge, he did not pretend to be able to discover." In this mood he unharnessed the horse, and ordered his wife to carry the furniture within doors beside Christian folk—though, he added, it was indeed of small value, now that the sled was gone. He turned the horse to grass, and, being greatly chagrined, sat him down, and spoke more disrespectfully of the "folk in green" all the evening than ever he had ventured to do before. According to his view, such conduct was far from being creditable to them; for, though he had shown a willingness to acknowledge their power, and to bear a harmless joke at their hands, they had done him a serious mischief. This, he knew, was quite contrary to their usual practice; for, though freakish, they are not malicious, and if their frolics are patiently submitted to, it commonly procures for the prudent rustic a speedy cessation of them.

But if Thomas's despondency was for some time great, it happened shortly after, to his unspeakable satisfaction, that, being out on the hill to look after his flock, he discovered his sled, filled with peats, as he had loaded it, standing about half way on the road between the peat-hill and his house. He was at first chary of believing that the thing was real; for he argued, legitimately enough, that if the fairies had the power to prevent him from seeing what did exist, they might also be able to make things appear which were not; and the malicious spirit which they had already displayed led him to suspect that their persecution was not at end. Having satisfied himself, however, by repeated inspection and handling, that it actually was his lost sled which he now saw and grasped, he determined not to trust it again out of his sight, and, having unloaded it, drew it home with great labour, and then called his wife to watch it, whilst he ran to put the horse in yoke.

It was now that he repented of the harsh expressions he had lately used towards the "good neighbours." "They had played him a foul plisky," he said, "but not so bad as he once thought it, and he had spoken ever rashly against them." He thought it best, however, to place as little confidence as possible in them for the future. It is supposed that the eye of a Christian person can protect any thing it is fixed upon from being made the sport or the prey of these little mischievous imps; thus, if the nurses watch a child with sufficient care, there is no danger of its being stolen; and Thomas determined to make use of this same precaution for the preservation of his sled. The idea of keeping an eye upon it, himself, however, while travelling to and from the peat hill, was one that never entered his head. A modern driver would have found no difficulty in keeping his vehicle in sight at the same time that he managed the horse; but Thomas considered the assistance he rendered, and the example he showed by tugging at the extremity of the halter, to be indispensable—and therefore he proposed that his wife should accompany him and keep up the necessary degree of surveillance. Still the couple did not avow the fears which led to this course; that would have been to forepeak the ill they dreaded. But the husband said he had observed that the sled, in descending any steep part of the road, rushed upon the heels of his horse, which, thus assailed, was apt to leap hastily forward, to the great risk of being overturned, and doing him some injury. He therefore conceived that it would be advantageous to have a person who might prevent this by pulling backwards; and his wife, who had been no less alarmed than himself at the thought of blowing her fingers in a cold corner through winter, readily acquiesced in this arrangement.

Thomas related the whole circumstances of this affair to the minister of the parish some time after they occurred. That worthy man listened attentively to the full detail, and then proceeded, with his habitual solemnity of manner, to remark, that with respect to the existence of ghosts, guardian angels, and other beings of a purely spiritual nature, he was not called upon on the present occasion to make any observations. The question before him, he said, was in regard to fairies. Now, these creatures were sometimes accounted to possess corporeal faculties, and sometimes the popular belief attributed to them feats such as could be performed only by ethereal essences, which involved a *reductio ad absurdum*; for how could matter become immaterial, and vice versa?

For this reason, he had no hesitation in giving it as his opinion that no such beings as fairies existed; and therefore they could neither feloniously nor *per judicium*, abstract, or withdraw in any manner, any goods or property of any description. In explanation of the particular case now submitted to him, he suggested that the hooks which fastened the chains to the sled might have slipped out by some accident, and the thing never have been observed, as Thomas acknowledged that it was his practice to continue his way without once looking behind him. Our shepherd, however, by no means agreed either to the argument for non-existence of fairies, or to the solution which the minister gave regarding the temporary abstraction of his sled. "It wadna do," he said, "for learned men to confess the truth of sic cantrips, and they needs must say something against it. But the thing was as clear as day."

Column for Naturalists.

BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA.

THOUGH least in size, the glittering mantle of the humming-bird entitles it to the first place in the list of the new world. It may truly be called the bird of Paradise; and had it existed in the old world, would have claimed the title, instead of the bird which has now the honour to bear it. See it darting through the air, almost as quick as thought!—now it is within a yard of your fire!—in an instant it is gone!—now it flutters from flower to flower to sip the silver dew!—it is now a ruby—now a topaz—now an emerald—now all burnished gold. Cayenne and Demerara produce the same humming-birds. Perhaps you would wish to know something of their haunts. Chiefly in the months of July and August the tree called Bois Immortel, very common in Demerara, bears abundance of red blossom, which stays on the trees some weeks; then it is that most of the humming-birds are very plentiful. The wild red sage is also their favourite shrub, and they buzz like bees round the blossom of the Wallaba tree. Indeed, there is scarce a flower in the interior or on the sea-coast, but what receives frequent visits from one or other of the species. On entering the forest on the rising land in the interior, the blue and green, the smallest brown, no bigger than the humble bee, with two long feathers in the tail, are to be seen. As you advance towards the mountains of Demerara, other species of humming-birds present themselves. It seems to be an erroneous opinion that the humming-bird lives entirely on the honey-ew. Almost every flower of the tropical climates contains insects of one kind or other; now the humming-bird is most busy about the flowers an hour or two before sunrise, and after a shower of rain; and it is just at this time that the insects come out to the edge of the flower, in order that the sun's rays may dry the nocturnal dew and rain which they have received. On opening the stomach of the humming-bird, dead insects are found there.

Next to the humming-birds, the cotingas display the gayest plumage. They are of five species. Perhaps the scarlet cotinga is the richest of the five, and is one of those birds which are found in the deepest recesses of the forest. His crown is flaming red; to this abruptly succeeds a dark shining brown, reaching half way down the back; the remainder of the back, the rump, and tail, the extremity of which is edged with black, are a lovely red; the belly is somewhat lighter red; the breast reddish black; the wings brown. He has no song, is solitary, and utters a monotonous whistle which sounds like "quet." He is fond of the seeds of the hitia tree, and those of the silobol trees. The purple-throated cotinga has black wings, and every other part a light and glossy blue, save the throat, which is purple. The pompadour cotinga is entirely purple, except his wings, which are white, their first five feathers tipped with brown. The fifth species is the celebrated campanero of the Spaniards, called *dara* by the Indians, and bell-bird by the English. He is about the size of the jay. His plumage is white as snow. On his forehead rises a spiral tube nearly three inches long. It is jet black, dotted all over with small white feathers. It has a communication with the palate, and, when filled with air, looks like a spire; when empty, it becomes pendulous. His note is loud and clear, like the sound of a bell, and may be heard at the distance of three miles. In the midst of these extensive wilds, generally on the dried top of an aged mora, almost out of gun reach, you will see the campaneros. No sound or song from any of the winged inhabitants of the forest, not even the clearly pronounced "whip-poor-wills" from the goat-sucker, cause such astonishment as the toll of the campanero. With many of the feathered race, he pays the tribute of a morning and evening song, and even when the meridian sun has shut in silence the mouth of almost the whole of animated nature, the campanero still cheers the forest. You hear his toll, and then a pause again, and then a toll again, and again a pause. Then he is silent for six or eight minutes, and then another toll, and so on. He is never seen to feed with the other cotingas, nor is it known in what part of Guiana he makes his nest.

Whilst the cotingas attract your attention by their superior plumage, the singular form of the toucan makes a lasting impression on your memory. There are three species of toucans in Demerara, and three diminutives, which may be called toucanets. The largest of the first species frequents the mangrove trees on the sea-coast. He is never seen in the interior till you reach Macoushia, where he is found in the neighbourhood of the river Tacatore. The other two species are very common. They feed entirely on the fruits of the forest, and, though of the pie kind, never kill the young of other birds, or touch carrion. They are very noisy in rainy weather. The sound which the bouradi or the larger makes, is like the clear yelping of a puppy dog, and you fancy he says "pia-pia-co-co," and thus the South American Spaniards call him *piapoco*. All the toucanets feed on the same trees on which the toucan feeds, and every species of this family, of enormous bill, lays its eggs in the hollow trees. They are social, but not gregarious. You may sometimes see eight or ten in company, and from this you may suppose they are gregarious; but upon closer examination, you will find it has only been a dinner party, which breaks up and disperses towards roosting time. The flight of the toucan is by jerks; in the action of flying it seems incommoded by its huge disproportioned bill; if the extraordinary form and size of the bill expose the toucan to ridicule, its colours make it amends.

The houtou ranks high in beauty amongst the birds of Demerara; his whole body is green, with a bluish cast in the wings and tail; his crane, which he erects at pleasure, consists of black in the centre, surrounded with lovely blue of two different shades; he has a triangular black spot, edged with blue, behind the eye, extending to the ear; and on his breast a sable tuft, consisting of nine feathers edged also with blue. This bird seems to suppose that its beauty can be increased by trimming the tail, which undergoes the same operation as our hair in a barber's shop, only with this difference, that it uses its own beak, which is serrated, in lieu of a pair of scissors; as soon as his tail is full grown, he begins about an inch from the extremity of the two largest feathers in it, and cuts away the web on both sides of the shaft, making a gap about an inch long. Both male and female Adonise trim their tails in this manner, which gives them a remarkable appearance amongst other birds. The thick and gloomy forests are the places preferred by the houtou. In those far-extending wilds, about day-break, you hear him articulate, in a distinct and mournful tone, "houtou, houtou." Move cautiously on where the sound proceeds from, and you will see him sitting in the underwood, and very rarely is he seen in the lofty trees, except the bastard alibol tree, the fruit of which is grateful to him. He makes no nest, but rears his young in a hole in the sand, generally on the side of a hill.

The cassique, in size, is larger than the starling; he covets the society of man, but disdains to live by his labours. When nature calls for support, he repairs to the neighbouring forest, and there partakes of the store of fruits and seeds which she has produced in abundance for her aerial tribes. When his repast is over, he returns to man, and pays the little tribute which he owes him for his protection; he takes his station on a tree close to his house, and there for hours together pours forth a succession of imitative notes. His own song is sweet, but very short. If a toucan be yelping in the neighbourhood, he drops it, and imitates him. Then he will assume his protector with the cries of different species of the woodpecker; and when the sheep bleat, he will distinctly imitate them. Then comes his own song again, and if a puppy dog or a guinea fowl interrupt him, he takes them off admirably; and by his different gestures during the time, you would conclude that he enjoys the sport. The cassique is gregarious, and imitates any sound he hears with such exactness, that he goes by no other name than that of mocking-bird amongst the colonists. At breeding time, a number of these pretty choiristers resort to a tree near the planter's house, and from its outside branches weave their pendulous nests. So conscious do they seem that they never give offence, and so little suspicious are they of receiving any injury from man, that they will choose a tree within forty yards from his house, and occupy the branches so low down that he may peep into the nests. The proportions of the cassique are so fine, that he may be said to be a model of symmetry in ornithology. On each wing he has a bright yellow spot, and his rump, belly, and half the tail, are of the same colour. All the rest of the body is black. His beak is the colour of sulphur, but it fades in death, and requires the same operation as the bill of the toucan to make it keep its colour.

You would not be long in the forests of Demerara without noticing the woodpeckers. You may meet with them feeding at all hours of the day. Well may they do so. Were they to follow the example of most of the other birds, and only feed in the morning and evening, they would be often on short allowance, for they sometimes have to labour three or four hours at the tree before they get at the food. The sound which the largest kind makes in hammering against the bark of the tree, is so loud, that you would never suppose it to proceed from the efforts of a bird. You would take it to be the woodman, with his axe, trying, by a sturdy blow often repeated, whether the tree was sound or not. There are fourteen species here; the largest is the size of a magpie, the smallest not bigger than the wren. They are all beautiful, and the greater part of them have their heads ornamented with a fine crest, moveable at pleasure. It is said if you once give a dog a bad name, whether innocent or guilty, he never loses it. It sticks close to him wherever he goes. He has many a kick and many a blow to bear on account of it, and there is nobody to stand up for him. The woodpecker is little better off. The proprietors of woods in Europe have long accused him of injuring their timber, by boring holes in it, and letting in the water, which soon rots it. The colonists in America have the same complaints against him. Had he the power of speech, he could soon make a defence. "Mighty lords of the woods," he would say to man, "why do you wrongfully accuse me? Why do you hunt me up and down to death for an imaginary offence? I have never spoiled a leaf of your property, much less your wood. Your merciless shot strikes me at the very time I am doing you a service. But your shortsightedness will not let you see it, or your pride is above examining closely the actions of so insignificant a little bird as I am. If there be that spark of feeling in your breast, which they say man possesses, or ought to possess, above all other animals, do a poor injured creature a little kindness, and watch me in your woods only for one day. I never worried your healthy trees. I should perish for want in the attempt. The sound bark would easily resist the force of my bill; and were I even to pierce through it, there would be nothing inside that I could fancy, or my stomach digest. I often visit them, it is true, but a knock or two convinces me that I must go elsewhere for support; and were you to listen attentively to the sound which my bill causes, you would know whether I am upon a healthy or an unhealthy tree. Wood and bark are not my food. I live entirely upon the insects which have already formed a lodgement in the distempered tree. When the sound informs me that my prey is there, I labour for hours together till I get at it; and, by consuming it, for my own support, I prevent its further depredations in that part. Thus I discover for your hidden and unsuspected foe, which has been devouring your wood in such secrecy, that you had not the least suspicion it was there. The hole which I make, in order to get at the pernicious vermin, will be seen by you as you pass under the tree. I leave it as a signal to tell you, that your tree has already stood too long. It is past its prime. Millions of insects, engendered by distemper, are preying upon its vitals; ere long it will fall a log in useless ruins. Warned by this loss, cut down the rest in time, and spare, O spare, the unoffending woodpecker."—*Wanderings of Charles Waterton in South America.*

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